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Wicklow Biodiversity Action Plan 2026-2031

WICKLOW COUNTY C
LOCAL AUTHORITY B.ODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN 2026-2031

Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment Screening

Prepared for:

Wicklow County Council

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Wicklow County Council

Ceangal
Clár den Chomhairle Oidhreachta
A Heritage Council programme

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Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment Screening for Wicklow County Council Local Authority Biodiversity Action Plan 2026-2031

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Abstract: Fehily Timoney and Company is pleased to submit this AA Screening Report to Wicklow County Council for their Local Authority Biodiversity Action Plan.

This project has been funded by Wicklow County Council and the Heritage Council. The Local Authority Biodiversity Officer Programme is delivered in partnership with the Heritage Council.

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

Wicklow County Council (WCC) has prepared a Local Authority Biodiversity Action Plan (LABAP) for its functional area (the Plan Area) for the years 2026-2031 The LABAP builds on the former Wicklow BAP (2015-2025) and focuses on actions that Wicklow County Council can lead, support or influence in relation to protecting and managing biodiversity within Wicklow County.

This report presents an examination of whether the LABAP is likely to have a significant effect on a European site (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) and is based on best available scientific knowledge. This report has been prepared to inform the competent authority in completing their statutory obligations in relation to Appropriate Assessment, as required by Article 6(3) under Council Directive 92/43/EEC (Habitats Directive).

1.2 Background to Biodiversity Action Plans

LABAPs must be prepared in accordance with The Heritage Council's Local Authority Biodiversity Action Plan Guidelines (2024). These guidelines provide best practice guidance to local authorities on preparing and implementing biodiversity conservation actions within their functional area. These guidelines advise that LABAPs *'should aim to record, conserve, restore and promote biodiversity, and to increase awareness, understanding and appreciation of it among the people of the area.'*

LABAPs are designed to provide a structured approach to biodiversity conservation at local level. Local Authorities are required to develop a compelling vision for their LABAP and a set of clear, measurable and achievable objectives for biodiversity conservation in their functional area. LABAPs are developed by Local Authority Biodiversity Officers with the support of a dedicated Biodiversity Working Group. Public engagement and consultation must be undertaken at the Pre-draft and Draft Plan stages of the Plan-making process. All submissions from stakeholders and members of the public should be considered during the development of a LABAP.

LABAPs should serve to define targeted and focussed action for promoting biodiversity conservation through the functions of a local authority in alignment with nature legislation and higher order policy such as the 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan and inter-related policy. LABAPs should be in harmony with and support the land use planning framework, including City and County Development Plans and Local Area Plans.

LABAPs are non-statutory land use plans that should be screened for the need for SEA and AA.

1.3 Legislative Context

Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (Habitats Directive) provides legal protection for habitats and species of European importance. The Directive requires that where a plan or project is likely to have a significant effect on a European Site, while not directly connected with or necessary to the nature conservation management of the site, it will be subject to 'Appropriate Assessment' to identify any implications for the European site in view of the site's Conservation Objectives. Specifically, Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive states:

> *"6(3) Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site (Natura 2000 sites) but likely to have significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives. In the light of the conclusions of the assessment of the implications for the site and subject to the provisions of paragraph 4, the competent national authorities shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned and, if appropriate, after having obtained the opinion of the general public."*

These requirements are implemented in the Republic of Ireland by the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (as amended) and the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).

The competent authority must carry out a screening for appropriate assessment to assess, in view of best scientific knowledge, if the proposed plan, individually or in combination with another plan or project is likely to have a significant effect on the European site. If it cannot be excluded, on the basis of objective information, that the proposed plan, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will have a significant effect on a European site, an appropriate assessment of its implications for the European Site(s) in view of the Site's conservation objectives must be carried out.

The provisions of Article 6(3) do not apply where the proposed plan or project is *'connected with or necessary to the management of the site'*. In this case, the plan is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of any European site(s).

1.4 Guidance

The assessment was conducted in accordance with the following guidance:

- Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland: Guidance for Planning Authorities. National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Dublin (2009, updated 2010);
- Interpretation Manual of European Union Habitats. Version EUR 28. European Commission 2013;
- Scottish Natural Heritage. (2016). Assessing Connectivity with Special Protection Areas (SPAs) Guidance.
- Managing Natura 2000 sites. The provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. European Commission (2019). Brussels, (2019/C 33/01). OJ C 33, 25.1.2019.

- Assessment of Plans and Projects Significantly Affecting Natura 2000 Sites: Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, Luxembourg (European Commission, 2002). This document was updated by Assessment of plans and projects in relation to Natura 2000 sites - Methodological guidance on Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. Commission Notice (2021) Brussels, 28.9.2021 C (2021) 6913 final;
- OPR Practice Note PN01 Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management, Office of the Planning Regulator (2021).
- Atkinson, S., Magee, M., Moorkens, E.A. & Heavey, M. (2024). Guidance on Assessment and Construction Management in Margaritifera Catchments in Ireland. https://e-mussels.eu/europe/conservation-guidelines

1.5 Assessment Process and Approach

The process of determining the likelihood of significant effects from a proposed plan or project on European sites is an iterative process centred around a Source-Pathway-Receptor (S-P-R) model. In order for an effect to be established, all three elements of this mechanism must be in place. The absence or removal of one of the elements of the mechanism is sufficient to conclude that a potential effect is not of any relevance or significance.

- Source(s) – e.g., pollutant run-off, noise, removal of vegetation etc.;
- Pathway(s) – functional link, or ecological pathway e.g., groundwater connecting to nearby qualifying wetland habitats; and,
- Receptor(s) –the qualifying habitats and species of European sites and ecological resources supporting those habitats/species.

In the context of this report, a source is any identifiable element of the proposed plan that is known to interact with the receiving environment. A receptor is the Qualifying Interests (QI)[1] for an SAC or Special Conservation Interests (SCI)[2] for an SPA or an ecological feature that is known to be utilised by the QI/SCI. In practice, the term Qualifying Interests also applies to SCIs (and is used in this document for simplicity). A pathway is any connection or link between the source and the receptor.

The assessment commences with a description of the plan, and the associated sources for impacts to the receiving environment. The type of impacts that are likely due to the plan (Source) are identified having regard to the spatial and temporal scale of the plan, resource requirements and likely emissions. These sources are then used to define the zone of influence (ZoI) of the plan.

[1] SACs are areas designated under the Habitats Directive to conserve habitats listed in Annex I of the Directive and plant and animal species listed in Annex II. Collectively these are referred to as the 'Qualifying Interests' or 'QIs' of the SAC.
[2] SPAs are sites classified under the Birds Directive to protect rare or vulnerable bird species listed in Annex I to the Directive as well as regularly occurring migratory species and wetlands. Wetland habitats that support internationally important populations of migratory birds may be coastal or inland. Collectively, these species and habitats are referred to as the 'Special Conservation Interests' of the SPA.

The European Commission Notice (2021) on the 'Assessment of plans and projects in relation to Natura 2000 sites – Methodological guidance on Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC', states that in identifying European sites (Natural 2000 sites), which may be affected by a plan or project, the following should be identified:

- Any European sites geographically overlapping with any of the actions or aspects of the plan or project in any of its phases, or adjacent to them;
- Any European sites within the likely zone of influence of the plan or project. European sites located in the surroundings of the plan or project (or at some distance) that could still be indirectly affected by aspects of the plan project, including as regards the use of natural resources (e.g., water) and various types of waste, discharge or emissions of substances or energy;
- European sites whose connectivity or ecological continuity can be affected by the plan or project.

The zone of influence of a plan is the geographical area over which it could affect the receiving environment in a way that could have potential effects on the Qualifying Interests of a European site. The OPR (2021) practice note states that the Zone of Influence must be established on a case-by-case basis using the Source-Pathway-Receptor (S-P-R) framework and not by arbitrary distances (such as 15 km). Section 3.3 sets out the detailed rationale for the identification of relevant European sites within the ZoI based on the sources of impacts arising from the proposed plan. Subsequently, an assessment is undertaken with respect to potential connectivity (Pathways) to European Sites and their qualifying interests/special conservation interests are identified.

The potential for in-combination effects with other plans and projects is also assessed having regard to the identified impacts of the proposed plan along the ecological pathways identified to European sites.

The likelihood of significant effects on the European Sites within the ZoI is examined having regard to the sensitivity of each European site with pathways for impacts associated with the proposed plan on its own and in combination with other plans and projects.

Having regard to the European Commission Communication on the Precautionary Principle (European Commission, 2021) the:

> *"absence of scientific evidence on the significant negative effect of an action cannot be used as justification for approval of this action. When applied to Article 6(3) procedure, the precautionary principle implies that the absence of a negative effect on Natura 2000 sites has to be demonstrated before a plan or project can be authorised. In other words, if there is a lack of certainty as to whether there will be any negative effects, then the plan or project cannot be approved."*

Where significant effects are determined to be likely, or where there is uncertainty regarding the likelihood of significant effects, the plan will be required under law to be subjected to Appropriate Assessment.

2. DESCRIPTION OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN

2.1 Local Authority Biodiversity Action Plan

The Wicklow Biodiversity Action Plan is a document for guiding practical decision, inform land-use decisions and connect people with the nature around them. This will be done through new partnerships and better supports, community groups, farmers and local schools who will collaborate to manage land for biodiversity enhancement and restoration initiatives.

The following Objectives[3] are defined in the LABAP:

- Objective 1: Embed Biodiversity in Local Authority Planning and Practice
- Objective 2: Protect and Enhance Biodiversity through Community-Led and Local Action
- Objective 3: Restore and Connect Biodiversity Across Wicklow's Landscapes
- Objective 4: Collaborate at Scale to Address Shared Biodiversity Challenges
- Objective 5: Strengthen the Evidence Base to Guide Action and Track Progress

A series of Actions[4] have been defined in the LABAP under each Objective. The higher-level Objectives are broader in scope, whilst the Actions underpinning the Objectives are more defined and measurable. These are presented in Table 2-1.

[3] The Objectives listed in this section are as published in the Final LABAP. Amendments to the Draft LABAP Objectives are included in Appendix 2 of this Screening Report.
[4] Tables 2-1 and 3-1 consider the Draft LABAP Actions (50 no.). Amendments to the Draft LABAP Actions and further screening for AA have been documented in Appendix 2 of this Screening Report.

Table 2-1: LABAP Objectives and corresponding Actions

Action Group	Action Reference	Action
Mainstreaming biodiversity into decision making, and leading by example through implementation of best practice	1.	Establish a Biodiversity Forum with representatives from key sectors and community groups. To evolve into a Biodiversity Steering Group on adoption of the plan.
	2.	Advance county-wide mapping of Wicklow's ecological networks and biodiversity features of particular concern or interest, for internal and external use.
	3.	Use maps to showcase work undertaken by WCC and partners, and to highlight areas where ecological connectivity could be further enhanced.
	4.	Review existing policies, including the WCC Glyphosate Policy and Tree Policy, and update where necessary.
	5.	Support relevant WCC sections by providing advice and guidance on minimising negative impacts on biodiversity, and identifying opportunities for biodiversity enhancement in Council works.
	6.	Provide biodiversity training for all WCC staff, and for external contractors through tender process where feasible, to ensure compliance with statutory obligations and the application of best practices.
	7.	Assess and plan for future national and EU biodiversity policy obligations by identifying suitable areas for restoration and biodiversity enhancement on WCC lands, ensuring readiness for the implementation of emerging frameworks.
	8.	WCC to become a partner to the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2026 and support the implementation of actions across all sectors.
	9.	Monitor and respond to the development of national policies with implications for biodiversity, including those relating to commercial forestry, renewable energy, and other land-use sectors.
	10.	Support the integration of ecological expertise and best practice into statutory planning and development processes by providing accessible guidance, capacity building, and specialist input to assist relevant departments in making biodiversity-informed decisions.
	11.	Ensure adequate resources for ecological input into planning and policy processes, including internal ecological reporting, independent review of statutory assessments (EIA, SEA, AA), and promote the use of stand-alone Ecological Impact Assessments (EcIAs), where appropriate.
	12.	Ensure WCC has adequate in-house ecological expertise to implement this and future biodiversity plans by establishing an ecology team and a dedicated parks department, in line with evolving national legislation and policy obligations.

Action Group	Action Reference	Action
	13.	Ensure sufficient resources are available within WCC to meet biodiversity needs by securing public funding, developing new funding models, and leveraging grants and private sector partnerships, including for large-scale and community-led restoration projects.
Citizen Science, Community Conservation and Capacity Building	14.	Develop a Biodiversity Ambassadors programme to raise public awareness of the ecological value and sensitivity of amenity areas.
	15.	Roll out a county-wide biodiversity citizen science monitoring and training programme.
	16.	Provide training, guidance, and capacity-building support to community groups to enhance biodiversity at the local level, and facilitate the formation of new biodiversity groups in response to interest.
	17.	Support interested community groups in tree and hedgerow seed collection initiatives, and in the development of a network of tree and hedgerow nurseries.
	18.	Deliver public engagement campaigns, events, and workshops that inspire people to reconnect with nature, take positive action for biodiversity, and act as responsible stewards of Wicklow's natural heritage.
	19.	Deliver biodiversity communications, including updates, public guidance, and accessible information, and explore new formats to raise awareness and deepen public engagement.
	20.	Support creative projects that explore the relationship between people and nature, such as nature-inspired murals, performances, or other artistic expressions.
	21.	Develop practical ways to support information sharing, networking and collaboration among individuals and community groups involved in biodiversity projects and activities in Wicklow.
	22.	Support schools in promoting biodiversity awareness and action through participation in existing programmes and by supporting practical learning and locally relevant projects.
	23.	In collaboration with relevant agencies, provide training and demonstration site visits for farmers and landowners interested in biodiversity enhancement and habitat restoration.
	24.	Support farmers and landowners to implement biodiversity enhancement and landscape resilience measures on private land by offering technical guidance and access to funding opportunities.
	25.	Investigate the potential to establish a training programme in applied ecology and land management, based in Wicklow and accredited through collaboration with a third-level institution.

Action Group	Action Reference	Action
Protect, Restore and Build Resilience	26.	Continue implementing targeted biodiversity restoration and management measures at WCC sites with established ecological management plans, such as key coastal locations under active restoration.
	27.	Identify WCC-owned lands countywide with known or potential biodiversity value that require further ecological assessment, and develop site-specific strategies to guide future restoration and conservation actions.
	28.	Promote urban biodiversity and ecological connectivity through demonstration projects and green infrastructure measures, including wildlife-friendly lighting, nature-based SuDS, green corridors, and climate-resilient habitats.
	29.	Identify WCC-owned lands in urban and semi-urban areas with potential for habitat creation — particularly woodland and wetland — and support the implementation of biodiversity enhancement measures on these sites.
	30.	Support LAWPRO, Inland Fisheries, and other stakeholders in activities aimed at improving water quality and implementing the 3rd (and 4th) cycle of the River Basin Management Plan.
	31.	Pilot conservation grazing on selected WCC lands to enhance habitat quality and support traditional land management, with a view to establishing a wider programme incorporating biodiversity and social farming objectives.
	32.	Explore innovative nature-based solutions to build county-wide resilience.
	33.	Support projects that enhance marine ecosystems through the restoration of oyster beds, seagrass meadows, and kelp forests in suitable areas.
	34.	Support existing and future EIP, LIFE, and other EU-funded projects focused on ecosystem restoration as a delivery mechanism for WCC objectives.
Collaborate at Landscape Scale for Impact	35.	Support projects focused on the restoration of river corridors and natural water retention features to enhance biodiversity, reduce flood risk, and strengthen upland–coastal connectivity.
	36.	Support East Wicklow Rivers Trust, Inland Fisheries, and LAWPRO in delivering a barrier removal programme to improve fish passage in Wicklow rivers.
	37.	Support collaborative efforts to identify and advance upland restoration opportunities, recognising the unique biodiversity value of these areas and their potential co-benefits for water quality, climate resilience, and sustainable local economies.
	38.	Work with Wicklow Naturally and other partners to promote venison as a sustainable food source, and raise public awareness of the need to manage deer populations in Wicklow.

Action Group	Action Reference	Action
	39.	Review, strengthen, and further develop evidence-based measures to address the impacts of outdoor recreation on biodiversity, ensuring that access and amenity use are balanced with the protection of nature.
	40.	In partnership with NPWS, WUC, and others, establish a Dark Sky Reserve in WMNP and use it as a platform to raise awareness of the need for dark spaces and to implement light pollution reduction initiatives in selected communities.
	41.	Support and participate in invasive species control initiatives, in collaboration with relevant agencies, targeting invasive plants, mammals, aquatic species, and invertebrates.
	42.	Develop mechanisms to improve communication, cooperation, and resource-sharing with national agencies and other state bodies on key issues impacting biodiversity, including forestry, water quality, recreation, and agriculture.
Build Evidence Base through Research and Monitoring	43.	Continue to support existing species- and habitat-specific conservation projects, and work with partners to develop and implement new initiatives that align with identified priorities.
	44.	Encourage and facilitate the collection of baseline and ongoing monitoring data on priority species and habitats in the county, particularly those specified in Annexes II & IV of the Habitats Directive.
	45.	Undertake an audit of existing biodiversity monitoring and research activity in County Wicklow, including species and habitat coverage, methodologies, partnerships, and data availability, to identify gaps and priorities for future work.
	46.	Review and improve systems for biodiversity data management within WCC, and develop protocols to support the sharing of ecological data with key external partners, including the NBDC and NPWS.
	47.	Investigate options for assessing the impact of conservation actions in Wicklow, and for monitoring BAP implementation.
	48.	Pilot ecosystem accounting approaches on WCC Lands and assess feasibility of undertaking a comprehensive Natural Capital Assessment for County Wicklow.
	49.	Compile and promote information on the biodiversity value of historic demesnes and graveyards.
	50.	Support feasibility studies for circular economy projects which may have biodiversity benefits (e.g. wild graveyards, uses of sheep wool, use of habitat management by-products.)

2.2 Draft Plan Consultations and Amendments

This document is consolidated version of the SEA Screening Report, which has been updated in response to the submissions received during the consultation period, and considers amendments that were made to the original Draft Plan. The local authority has consulted with the following Environmental Authorities within the Republic of Ireland:

- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Ireland
- The Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Development Applications Unit
- The Department of Environment, Climate and Communications
- The Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine

A copy of the Draft LABAP and the Draft SEA and AA Screening Reports were sent to the Environmental Authorities, who were given four weeks to make submissions on the Draft Plan and the accompanying environmental reports. Two submissions were received; from the EPA and the Development Applications Unit[5] on behalf of the National Parks and Wildlife Services. These submissions have been included in Appendix 1 of the accompanying SEA Screening Report.

Draft Plan amendments arising from consultation submissions and the Plan-making process have been subject to further AA Screening Assessment. This assessment is presented in Appendix 2 of the report. The amendments will not introduce a source of negative impact beyond what has already been assessed for the Draft LABAP. Where a new action has been introduced by way of amendment, it was found to broadly have positive effects on primary interacting environmental receptors (i.e., biodiversity, flora and fauna). The majority of the amendments do not change the scope of the original actions and achieve the same outcomes as intended by their Draft Plan counterparts.

2.3 Relationship with other Relevant Plans and Programmes

The LABAP sits within a hierarchy of plans and has been informed by and is consistent with the aims and objectives of other plans, programmes and strategies developed at national, regional and local levels. These include, but are not limited to, the following:

National Level

- Project Ireland 2040: National Planning Framework (2018).
- Project Ireland 2040: National Planning Framework First Revision (2025).
- Heritage Ireland 2030: A Framework for Heritage (2022).
- Heritage Council Strategic Plan 2023 - 2028 (2023).
- The 4th National Biodiversity Plan 2023 - 2030 (2024) (discussed further in Section 3.1.1 below).
- Climate Action Plan (2025).

[5] The NPWS is fully integrated in the Heritage Division of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and holds the responsibility for the protection and conservation of Ireland's natural heritage and biodiversity at national government level. The DAU is responsible for the routing of and central coordination of Department responses to development applications and plans that might have significant effects on either architectural heritage, archaeology and/or nature conservation referred to the Minister in her role as a statutory consultee under the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended.

Regional and Local Level

- Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly 2019 - 2031.
- The Wicklow County Development Plan 2022 - 2028.
- The Wicklow Local Authority Climate Action Plan 2024 - 2029.
- The Draft County Wicklow Heritage Plan 2025-2029.

The Local Authority Biodiversity Action Plans within the Republic of Ireland will also serve to complement their Northern Ireland counterparts, which include:

- Environmental Improvement Plan for Northern Ireland
- Biodiversity Strategy (Draft Nature Recovery Strategy)
- Climate Change Adaptation Programme and Action Plan for Northern Ireland

2.3.1 The 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan 2023 - 2030

Ireland's 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBAP) sets the national biodiversity agenda for the period 2023 - 2030 and aims to deliver the transformative changes required to protect and value nature. The aim is to ensure that every citizen, community, business, local authority, semi-state and state agency has an awareness of biodiversity and its importance, and of the implications of its loss, while also understanding how they can act to address the biodiversity emergency as part of a renewed national effort to *'act for nature.'* This plan provides the overarching arching framework for delivering biodiversity conservation through LABAPs.

This National Biodiversity Action Plan 2023 - 2030 builds upon the achievements of the previous Plan. The five overarching objectives to address new and emerging issues include the following:

- Objective 1 - Adopt a Whole of Government, Whole of Society Approach to Biodiversity
- Objective 2 - Meet Urgent Conservation and Restoration Needs
- Objective 3 - Secure Nature's Contribution to People
- Objective 4 - Enhance the Evidence Base for Action on Biodiversity
- Objective 5 - Strengthen Ireland's Contribution to International Biodiversity Initiatives

The NBAP contains actions pertaining to the preparation to LABAPs under *Objective One: Adopt a Whole-of-Government, Whole-of-Society Approach to Biodiversity* and *Objective Three: Secure Nature's Contribution to People*, including the following:

Table 2-2: NBAP Actions pertaining to the preparation of Local Authority Biodiversity Action Plans

Action Number	Action
1C5	The Heritage Council will publish updated guidelines for the production of Local Biodiversity Action Plans and their integration with City and County Development Plans.
1C6	All Local Authorities will have a Biodiversity Action Plan adopted by the end of 2026 which is subject to regular review and revision processes in line with relevant guideline standards.
3A3	Local Authorities will work to identify and respond to opportunities for enhancing the biocultural value of GBUE through appropriate design strategies, the use of visual and performing arts, and enhancing equity of access and promoting use of GBUE by community groups, and integrating cultural services in local biodiversity action plans.

Local Authorities are expected to align their LABAPs with national commitments defined in the NBAP to ensure a cohesive approach to biodiversity conservation across the country.

3. SCREENING FOR APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

3.1 Introduction to Screening

This section of the report examines if the Plan is likely to have a significant effect upon European Sites, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans. The screening phase is progressed in the following stages. A series of questions are asked during the Screening Stage of the AA process in order to determine:

- Whether the plan or project introduces any sources of environmental or ecological impact.
- Whether a plan or project can be excluded from AA requirements because it is directly connected with or necessary to the management of a European Site.

Whether the plan or project will have a likely significant effect on a European Site, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, in view of the site's conservation objectives or if residual uncertainty exists regarding potential effects.

Plans are screened out based on one or a combination of the following criteria:

- Where it can be shown that there are no sources of environmental impact associated with a plan or project.
- Where there are no pathways such as hydrological links between a plan or project area, and relevant European sites
- Where a European site is located at a distance from the plan or project area such that effects are not foreseen;
- Where known threats or vulnerabilities at a European site cannot be linked to potential effects that may arise from a plan or project.

3.2 Potential Interactions of the Proposed Plan on the Receiving Environment

Having regard to the European Commission (2021) guidance document and the OPR (2021) practice note, the potential impacts of the LABAP Actions on the receiving environment at source are considered based (in Table 3-1) on the following criteria:

- Habitat destruction/fragmentation/deterioration;
- Surface water run-off carrying suspended silt and contaminants, into local watercourses;
- Changes to groundwater quality, yield and/or flow paths associated with the proposed project;
- Plan related activities (noise, vibration, lighting, human presence, structures, etc) leading to disturbance / displacement of species;
- Plan related activities leading to a reduction in species populations / density;
- Air pollution due to dust and other airborne emissions; and
- Disturbance and potential spread of invasive species.

These impacts are further examined in defining the Zone of Influence (ZoI) of the plan to identify likely significant effects through the Source-Pathway-Receptor assessment (See Section 3.3).

Table 3-1: Identification of sources arising from the Proposed Plan that have potential for interactions with the receiving environment

Theme	Action Reference	Action	Potential Sources of Impact
Mainstreaming biodiversity into decision making, and leading by example through implementation of best practice	1.	Establish a Biodiversity Forum with representatives from key sectors and community groups. To evolve into a Biodiversity Steering Group on adoption of the plan.	The action proposes the establishment of a Biodiversity Forum and subsequent Biodiversity Steering Group through engagement with representatives from key sectors and community groups. The action will create and foster a collaborative approach to implementing biodiversity initiatives and improving biodiversity in the Plan Area. This will contribute to the effective delivery of the Plan, and result in biodiversity improvements generally. The action will not generate a source of negative impact that can result in likely significant effects on the receiving environment.
	2.	Advance county-wide mapping of Wicklow's ecological networks and biodiversity features of particular concern or interest, for internal and external use.	The action proposes progressing mapping and baseline surveying of Wicklow's biodiversity networks and features for interested stakeholders. This will help underpin and support the effective implementation of the Plan and potentially lead to more focused and targeted biodiversity improvements. The action will not generate a source of negative impact that can result in likely significant effects on the receiving environment
	3.	Use maps to showcase work undertaken by WCC and partners, and to highlight areas where ecological connectivity could be further enhanced.	The action proposes showcasing biodiversity initiatives undertaken by the local authority and stakeholders, and highlighting areas where there is potential for enhancing ecological connectivity. This is proposed to be done through mapping. The action will foster public interest in work done till date, and underpin and support the implementation of the Plan by identifying opportunities for improvement. The action will not generate a source of negative impact that can result in likely significant effects on the receiving environment

Theme	Action Reference	Action	Potential Sources of Impact
	4.	Review existing policies, including the WCC Glyphosate Policy and Tree Policy, and update where necessary.	The action proposes reviewing policies on pesticide use and updating where necessary. The action will potentially positive impact receiving environmental components such as soils, water and biodiversity, as well as result in indirect positive effects on interacting human health and livestock. The action will not generate a source of negative impact that can result in likely significant effects on the receiving environment
	5.	Support relevant WCC sections by providing advice and guidance on minimising negative impacts on biodiversity, and identifying opportunities for biodiversity enhancement in Council works.	The action will support relevant Wicklow County Council sections by providing specialist advice and guidance in their decision-making to minimise negative impacts on biodiversity and identify opportunities for enhancement and restoration works that can be integrated into local authority works. The action will protect and enhance biodiversity and generate direct positive effects on biodiversity, flora and fauna (key species and habitats), and potential indirect positive effects on interacting components such as soil, water and air. The action will not generate a source of negative impact that can result in likely significant effects on the receiving environment
	6.	Provide biodiversity training for all WCC staff, and for external contractors through tender process where feasible, to ensure compliance with statutory obligations and the application of best practices.	The action promotes biodiversity-related training for WCC staff and external contractors (where feasible), and has the potential to improve biodiversity-related expertise and implementation within projects, therefore underpinning and supporting biodiversity improvements within the Plan Area. The action has the potential to positively impact interacting environmental components, including biodiversity, flora and fauna, and soils and water. The action will not generate a source of negative impact that can result in likely significant effects.

Theme	Action Reference	Action	Potential Sources of Impact
	7.	Assess and plan for future national and EU biodiversity policy obligations by identifying suitable areas for restoration and biodiversity enhancement on WCC lands, ensuring readiness for the implementation of emerging frameworks.	The action proposes assessing and planning for future national and EU policy obligations relating to biodiversity, including the identification of suitable areas for restoration and biodiversity enhancement on lands under WCC ownership, and preparing for the implementation of higher-order policy frameworks within Wicklow County. The action has the potential to enhance biodiversity metrics within the Plan Area, therefore benefitting interacting receptors such as biodiversity, flora and fauna and the soils and water environments. It will not introduce a source of negative impact that can lead to significant effects on the receiving environment.
	8.	WCC to become a partner to the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2026 and support the implementation of actions across all sectors.	The action supports the implantation of the upcoming All-Ireland Pollinator Plan (2026) across all applicable sectors. The implementation of the action will have positive effects for biodiversity by improving diversification and species richness, and consequently supporting pollinator populations. These mutualistic interactions between plant and pollinators have the potential to arrest pollinator decline and contribute to stability of plant-pollinator communities[6]. The action does not have the potential to introduce a source of negative impact that can lead to significant effects on the receiving environment.
	9.	Monitor and respond to the development of national policies with implications for biodiversity, including those relating to commercial forestry, renewable energy, and other land-use sectors.	The action proposes Wicklow County Council to act as a stakeholder in the national policy-making process in relation to biodiversity developments. It involves monitoring and providing input in the development of national policies with implications for biodiversity, including policies relating to land-use sectors (e.g. forestry and renewable energy development).

[6] Huang et. al (2021) *Ecosystem complexity enhances the resilience of plant-pollinator systems*. Available at: https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2590332221004668 (Accessed September 2025)

Theme	Action Reference	Action	Potential Sources of Impact
			The action is engagement-based and will create and foster a collaborative approach to designing implementable biodiversity policy nationally and at a local level, and potentially contribute to the effective delivery of biodiversity improvements. The action will not result in any significant effects on the receiving environment due to the lack of a source of any negative impact.
	10.	Support the integration of ecological expertise and best practice into statutory planning and development processes by providing accessible guidance, capacity building, and specialist input to assist relevant departments in making biodiversity-informed decisions.	The action supports the integration of biodiversity consideration and improvements within the land use framework and development planning process through the provision of specialist information and input within the planning process. It has the potential to contribute to the realisation of positive effects on biodiversity, as well as co-benefits for other environmental components. The action does not have the potential to introduce a source of negative impact that can lead to significant effects on the receiving environment.
	11.	Ensure adequate resources for ecological input into planning and policy processes, including internal ecological reporting, independent review of statutory assessments (EIA, SEA, AA), and promote the use of stand-alone Ecological Impact Assessments (EcIAs), where appropriate.	The action revolves around securing adequate financial resourcing to support specialist input into the planning and policy processes, therefore ensuring robust reviews of ecological reporting and assessments, and promoting EcIAs as appropriate. Such integration of biodiversity considerations into the planning process will contribute to the realisation of positive effects on biodiversity and other indirect positive effects on interacting receptors. The action does not have the potential to introduce a source of negative impact that can lead to significant effects on the receiving environment.
	12.	Ensure WCC has adequate in-house ecological expertise to implement this and future biodiversity plans by establishing an ecology team and a dedicated parks department, in line with evolving national legislation and policy obligations.	The action focuses on securing resources for retaining in-house specialist expertise to facilitate the ongoing implementation of the current and any future BAPs, in line with the national legislation and policy obligations. The action has the potential to improve biodiversity-related expertise within WCC and underpin and support biodiversity improvements within the Plan Area.

Theme	Action Reference	Action	Potential Sources of Impact
			The action, in and of itself, will not result in any a significant effects on the receiving environment due to the lack of a source of any negative impact.
	13.	Ensure sufficient resources are available within WCC to meet biodiversity needs by securing public funding, developing new funding models, and leveraging grants and private sector partnerships, including for large-scale and community-led restoration projects.	The action focuses on securing sufficient resources through existing and new funding streams, which will be used for supporting large-scale and community-led biodiversity restoration projects. The action will protect and enhance biodiversity within the Plan Area, and potentially generate positive effects on the biodiversity components (key species and habitats). It does not have the potential to introduce a source of negative impact that can result in significant effects on the receiving environment.
Citizen Science, Community Conservation and Capacity Building	14.	Develop a Biodiversity Ambassadors programme to raise public awareness of the ecological value and sensitivity of amenity areas.	The action is engagement-based with the intention to development an ambassadorship programme. The programme will engage with the wider community on the ecological value and sensitivity of amenity areas that are used for recreation by the public. It has the potential to foster further interest in biodiversity protection and enhancement throughout the local authority as an organisation, and the wider community. The action, in and of itself, will not result in any significant effects on the receiving environment due to the lack of a source of any negative impact.
	15.	Roll out a county-wide biodiversity citizen science monitoring and training programme.	The action proposes the development of a citizen science programme, which will create and foster a collaborative approach to implementing biodiversity initiatives and improving biodiversity in the Plan Area. It will contribute to the effective delivery of the Plan and enable informed-decision making through collection of baseline information. The action has the potential to contribute to biodiversity improvements generally. The action, in and of itself, will not result in any significant effects on the receiving environment due to the lack of a source of any negative impact.

Theme	Action Reference	Action	Potential Sources of Impact
	16.	Provide training, guidance, and capacity-building support to community groups to enhance biodiversity at the local level, and facilitate the formation of new biodiversity groups in response to interest.	The action is training-based to empower community groups to contribute to biodiversity enhancement at the local level. This will potentially foster interest in local wildlife and biodiversity and lead to the formation of new biodiversity groups and increased stewardship of the environment by the local community. The action will create and foster a collaborative approach to implementing biodiversity initiatives and improving biodiversity in the area, positively effecting biodiversity components (key species and habitats) and interacting components (soils and water). The action does not have the potential to generate a source of negative impact that can lead to significant effects on the receiving environment.
	17.	Support interested community groups in tree and hedgerow seed collection initiatives, and in the development of a network of tree and hedgerow nurseries.	Such seed banks and nurseries can potentially benefit biodiversity, particularly at-risk native flora through conservation of plant genetic material, that can be used for purposes of ecosystem restoration or scientific research. The action is positive for biodiversity, flora and fauna and cultural and natural heritage, and by extension, on population and human health. The action will enhance ecosystem resilience by improving plant disease and pest resistance (existing and emerging), and potentially produce economically viable crops in the future. The action will not introduce a source of negative impact that can result in significant effects on the environment.
	18.	Deliver public engagement campaigns, events, and workshops that inspire people to reconnect with nature, take positive action for biodiversity, and act as responsible stewards of Wicklow's natural heritage.	The action is engagement-based and will foster public interest in and stewardship from the wider community in relation to biodiversity in County Wicklow. The action will underpin the delivery of the Plan and biodiversity improvements generally, with the potential to result in positive effects on biodiversity components (key species and habitats), and interacting environmental components such as soil and water. The action will not introduce a source of negative impact that can result in significant effects on the environment.

Theme	Action Reference	Action	Potential Sources of Impact
	19.	Deliver biodiversity communications, including updates, public guidance, and accessible information, and explore new formats to raise awareness and deepen public engagement.	The action is engagement- and awareness-based for disseminating information and exploring other methods of raising awareness. This will foster further public interest in the protection and enhancement of local biodiversity. The action, in and of itself, will not result in any significant effects on the receiving environment due to the lack of a source of any negative impact.
	20.	Support creative projects that explore the relationship between people and nature, such as nature-inspired murals, performances, or other artistic expressions.	The action is aimed at supporting nature relational art and creative projects and has the potential to positively impact cultural and natural heritage and population and human health by fostering human wellbeing and environmental awareness. The action does not the potential to introduce a source of negative impact that can result in significant effects on the receiving environment.
	21.	Develop practical ways to support information sharing, networking and collaboration among individuals and community groups involved in biodiversity projects and activities in Wicklow.	The action is awareness- and engagement-based relating to the exchange of information and collaboration between individuals and groups involved in biodiversity activities in County Wicklow. The action creates and fosters a collaborative approach to implementing biodiversity initiatives and improvements in the Plan Area, contributing to the effective delivery of the Plan and Biodiversity Improvements generally. The action will not introduce a source of negative impact that can result in significant effects on the receiving environment.
	22.	Support schools in promoting biodiversity awareness and action through participation in existing programmes and by supporting practical learning and locally relevant projects.	The action promotes biodiversity-related education in schools and incentivises school students to learn about the natural environment. This will result in increased engagement from younger members of the wider community, and underpin and support biodiversity improvements generally within the Plan Area. The action will not result in the occurrence of an significant effect due to the absence of a source of negative impact.

Theme	Action Reference	Action	Potential Sources of Impact
	23.	In collaboration with relevant agencies, provide training and demonstration site visits for farmers and landowners interested in biodiversity enhancement and habitat restoration.	The action is engagement-based as it intends to provide training and demonstration site visits for interested farmers and landowners considering the integration of biodiversity enhancement and habitat restoration measures on their landholdings. The action will potentially improve biodiversity-related expertise within these groups and underpin and support biodiversity improvements within the Plan Area. The action will not result in the occurrence of an significant effect due to the absence of a source of negative impact.
	24.	Support farmers and landowners to implement biodiversity enhancement and landscape resilience measures on private land by offering technical guidance and access to funding opportunities.	The action will facilitate interested farmers and landowners in implementing suitable biodiversity enhancement and habitat restoration measures across their landholdings through the provision of specialist advise and access to funding streams. The action will generally protect and enhance existing biodiversity in these ecosystems, and generate positive effects for any key species and habitats present. The action will not introduce a source of negative impact that can result in significant effects on the receiving environment.
	25.	Investigate the potential to establish a training programme in applied ecology and land management, based in Wicklow and accredited through collaboration with a third-level institution.	The action will assess the feasibility of establishing and providing a training programme in applied ecology and land management through a third-level institution in Wicklow. The action promotes biodiversity-related education and has the potential to improve biodiversity expertise, and underpin and support enhancement and restoration efforts within the Plan Area. The action will not result in the occurrence of an significant effect due to the absence of a source of negative impact.

Theme	Action Reference	Action	Potential Sources of Impact
Protect, Restore and Build Resilience	26.	Continue implementing targeted biodiversity restoration and management measures at WCC sites with established ecological management plans, such as key coastal locations under active restoration.	The action is aimed at the protection and enhancement of the biodiversity conditions within the Plan Area, and has the potential to generate positive effects on biodiversity components, such as habitats and species, and co-benefits for other environmental components. The action will not introduce a source of negative impact that can result in significant effects on the receiving environment.
	27.	Identify WCC-owned lands countywide with known or potential biodiversity value that require further ecological assessment, and develop site-specific strategies to guide future restoration and conservation actions.	The action proposes the identification of local authority-owned lands within the Plan Area that have a known or potential biodiversity value for further ecological assessment. This will be done with the view to develop site-specific strategies for guiding restoration and conservation actions. These sites will benefit from a bespoke and coordinated approach to managing and enhancing existing biodiversity. The implementation of this action has the potential to generate positive effects on biodiversity, flora and fauna (key species and habitats), and indirect positive effects on soils and water. The action will not introduce a source of negative impact that can result in significant effects on the receiving environment.
	28.	Promote urban biodiversity and ecological connectivity through demonstration projects and green infrastructure measures, including wildlife-friendly lighting, nature-based SuDS, green corridors, and climate-resilient habitats.	The action will proposes the use of demonstration or pilot projects and green infrastructure measures (such as wildlife-friendly lighting, nature-based SuDS and green corridors) for promoting urban biodiversity and showcasing the potential for co-existence of urban and natural ecosystems. The action is awareness-based and has the potential to foster further interest in biodiversity protection and enhancement efforts and initiatives carried out by the local authority. The action will not result in the occurrence of an significant effect due to the absence of a source of negative impact.

Theme	Action Reference	Action	Potential Sources of Impact
	29.	Identify WCC-owned lands in urban and semi-urban areas with potential for habitat creation — particularly woodland and wetland — and support the implementation of biodiversity enhancement measures on these sites.	The action will identify suitable lands under the ownership of Wicklow County Council that can support the implementation of biodiversity enhancement measures. The action will protect and enhance existing biodiversity in the Plan Area, with the potential to generate positive effects on biodiversity components (key species and habitats), and result in indirect positive effects on water, soils, and air quality. The action will not introduce a source of negative impact than can result in significant effects on the receiving environment.
	30.	Support LAWPRO, Inland Fisheries, and other stakeholders in activities aimed at improving water quality and implementing the 3rd (and 4th) cycle of the River Basin Management Plan.	The action supports compliance with the Water Framework Directive through engagement with LAWPRO, Inland Fisheries and other stakeholders in activities that improve water quality in waterbodies in the Plan Area and by implementing applicable actions within the current and upcoming River Basin Management Plan. The action will positively impact aquatic ecosystems and interacting receptors such as water, soil, and biodiversity, flora and fauna. The action does not have the potential to introduce a source of negative impact that can lead to significant effects on the receiving environment.
	31.	Pilot conservation grazing on selected WCC lands to enhance habitat quality and support traditional land management, with a view to establishing a wider programme incorporating biodiversity and social farming objectives.	Controlled or conservation grazing has the potential to improve sward quality by preserving good soil structure and minimising soil compacting. This practice also potentially enhances the ecosystem through requiring reduced fertiliser and herbicide applications by conditioning swards for subsequent grazing rotations[7], therefore resulting in environmentally sustainable grazing areas.

[7] Spring Grazing Management (Teagasc). Available at: https://teagasc.ie/crops/grassland/grass10/grazing-management/spring-grazing-management/ (Accessed September 2025.

Theme	Action Reference	Action	Potential Sources of Impact
			The action has the potential to positively impact biodiversity, flora and fauna, the soils and water environments, and air and climate. The action does not have the potential to introduce a source of negative impact that can lead to significant effects on the receiving environment.
	32.	Explore innovative nature-based solutions to build county-wide resilience.	The action proposes the review of nature-based solutions (NBS) that can be applied across the Plan Area to contribute to biodiversity improvements. NBS involves assimilating nature into addressing societal challenges, and can translate to integration of biodiversity-friendly features into private sector and local authority developments. The development of any such NBS infrastructure will be carried out under the land-use framework of the local authority, and will be subject to the planning process. The action will underpin and support biodiversity improvements in the Plan Area. It does not, in and of itself, have the potential to introduce a source of negative impact that can result in significant effects on the receiving environment.
	33.	Support projects that enhance marine ecosystems through the restoration of oyster beds, seagrass meadows, and kelp forests in suitable areas.	The action will support projects aimed at improvement of marine ecosystems, such as the restoration of oyster beds, seagrass meadows, and kelp forests in suitable areas. The restoration of such ecosystems will protect and enhance biodiversity within the marine environmental of County Wicklow, and result in direct positive effects on biodiversity, flora and fauna (habitats and key species) and interacting receptors such as soil and water. The action will not introduce a source of negative impact that can result in significant effects on the receiving environment.
	34.	Support existing and future EIP, LIFE, and other EU-funded projects focused on ecosystem restoration as a delivery mechanism for WCC objectives.	The action pledges support to existing and planned EU-funded projects, including those funded by European Innovation Partnership (EIP) and LIFE (L'Instrument Financier pour l'Environnement), as delivery mechanisms for the Local Authority's objectives.

Theme	Action Reference	Action	Potential Sources of Impact
			The action will protect and enhance biodiversity in general, and will result in positive effects on biodiversity components (habitats and key species) and interacting receptors such as soil and water. The action will not introduce a source of negative impact that can result in significant effects on the receiving environment.
Collaborate at Landscape Scale for Impact	35.	Support projects focused on the restoration of river corridors and natural water retention features to enhance biodiversity, reduce flood risk, and strengthen upland–coastal connectivity.	The action will support projects aimed at the restoration of river corridors and water retention features that can enhance biodiversity, reduce flood risk and strengthen connectivity between inland and coastal ecosystems. This will result in in direct positive effects on biodiversity, flora and fauna (habitats and key species) and interacting receptors such as soil and water. The action will not introduce a source of negative impact that can result in significant effects on the receiving environment.
	36.	Support East Wicklow Rivers Trust, Inland Fisheries, and LAWPRO in delivering a barrier removal programme to improve fish passage in Wicklow rivers.	The action proposes that Wicklow County Council support and collaborate with state bodies in the delivery of a barrier removal programme across Wicklow County to improve fish migration. The removal of barriers across watercourses aids in the restoration of river habitats, contributing to national obligations towards EU Water Framework and Habitats Directives and fostering a collaborative approach to implementing biodiversity initiatives within County Wicklow. These works were subject to various environmental assessments to inform planning consent[8], including an ecological impact assessment and screening for appropriate assessment. The action will potentially result in in direct positive effects on biodiversity, flora and fauna (habitats and key species) and interacting receptors such as soil and water. The action will not introduce a source of negative impact that can result in significant effects on the receiving environment.

[8] Restoring fish passage by reopening ~41 km of salmonid habitat in Eastern Ireland (Dam Removal Europe). Available at https://damremoval.eu/portfolio/ballinglen-bridge-weir-ireland/#:~:text=Since%202020%2C%20the%20Wicklow%20Fish,aiming%20at%20improving%20habitat%20and (Accessed September 2025).

Theme	Action Reference	Action	Potential Sources of Impact
	37.	Support collaborative efforts to identify and advance upland restoration opportunities, recognising the unique biodiversity value of these areas and their potential co-benefits for water quality, climate resilience, and sustainable local economies.	The action will support collaborative efforts between various state bodies for identifying and advancing upland restoration opportunities in recognition of the unique biodiversity values and potential ecosystem services these areas can offer. The restoration of these native woodlands will provide habitats for native flora and fauna and promote ecological diversity and connectivity. The vegetation in these woodlands act as natural filters, improving the quality of water that flows through streams and rivers traversing these areas. The action will potentially result in in direct positive effects on biodiversity, flora and fauna (habitats and key species) and interacting receptors such as soil and water. The action will not introduce a source of negative impact that can result in significant effects on the receiving environment.
	38.	Work with Wicklow Naturally and other partners to promote venison as a sustainable food source, and raise public awareness of the need to manage deer populations in Wicklow.	Deer populations in County Wicklow have increased drastically, requiring intervention from the Department of Food, Agriculture and the Marine for managing deer populations and preventing the environmental and economic impacts of deer grazing. Native and broadleaf trees are at particular risk from deer damage[9]. Venison can be a sustainable source of meat due to its relatively lower environmental footprint when compared to traditional livestock, as these deer populations do not require extensive resource use[10]. The action intends to raise awareness regarding venison as a sustainable food source and indicate to the need to manage deer populations in Wicklow. The action will foster public interest in relation to this issue.

[9] Wicklow Deer Management Project 2019-2022 Final report (Wicklow Uplands Council, March 2022). Available at: http://irishdeercommission.ie/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Wicklow-Deer-Project-Final-Report-April22.pdf (Accessed September 2025)
[10] Venison: A Sustainable and Ethical Meat Choice (Irish Deer Society). Available at: https://www.irishdeersociety.ie/wild-venison-healthy-and-sustainable/ (Accessed September 2025)

Theme	Action Reference	Action	Potential Sources of Impact
			The action, being awareness-based, will not result in any significant effects on the receiving environment due to the lack of a source of any negative impact.
	39.	Review, strengthen, and further develop evidence-based measures to address the impacts of outdoor recreation on biodiversity, ensuring that access and amenity use are balanced with the protection of nature.	The action proposes the development of evidence-based measures for address the impacts of outdoor recreation on biodiversity in an effort to balance amenity use and ecological protection. The action will protect and enhance biodiversity around areas that see increased human activity due to their amenity value. The action will generate positive effects on biodiversity components (habitats and key species), and co-benefits for other environmental components (soil, water, air and climate). The action will not introduce a source of negative impact that can result in significant effects on the receiving environment.
	40.	In partnership with NPWS, WUC, and others, establish a Dark Sky Reserve in WMNP and use it as a platform to raise awareness of the need for dark spaces and to implement light pollution reduction initiatives in selected communities.	Light pollution presents a threat to light-sensitive, nocturnal species inhabiting in or around urban or peri-urban settlements. The development of a Dark Sky Reserve within the Wicklow Mountains National Park will have positive effects on the local wildlife which require natural darkness, and as per Dark Sky Ireland's findings, potentially positively impact population and human health, cultural heritage and tourism and recreation. The action does not have the potential to generate any significant environmental effects.
	41.	Support and participate in invasive species control initiatives, in collaboration with relevant agencies, targeting invasive plants, mammals, aquatic species, and invertebrates.	The action will prevent and minimise the spread of invasive species in the Plan Area and has the potential to result in positive effects for biodiversity. Native species and habitats that are at risk due to invasive species will benefit through the reduction or elimination of competition for resources. The action also creates and fosters a collaborative approach to implementing biodiversity initiatives that will improve biodiversity in the Plan Area. This will contribute to the effective delivery of the Plan.

Theme	Action Reference	Action	Potential Sources of Impact
			The action does not have the potential to introduce a source of negative impact that can lead to significant effects on the receiving environment.
	42.	Develop mechanisms to improve communication, cooperation, and resource-sharing with national agencies and other state bodies on key issues impacting biodiversity, including forestry, water quality, recreation, and agriculture.	The action proposes the development of mechanisms and systems for enhancing communication across national and other European bodies on key issues relating to biodiversity and other sectors such as forestry, water quality, and agriculture. This creates and fosters a collaborative approach where knowledge and expertise can be exchanged and initiatives can be effectively implemented for improving biodiversity in the Plan Area. The action, in and of itself, will not result in any significant effects on the receiving environment due to the lack of a source of any negative impact.
Build Evidence Base through Research and Monitoring	43.	Continue to support existing species- and habitat-specific conservation projects, and work with partners to develop and implement new initiatives that align with identified priorities.	The action will protect and enhance biodiversity in the Plan Area, and potentially generate direct positive effects on biodiversity components (habitats and key species), and indirect positive effects for other interacting environmental components such as water and soil. The action will not introduce a source of negative impact that can result in significant effects on the receiving environment.
	44.	Encourage and facilitate the collection of baseline and ongoing monitoring data on priority species and habitats in the county, particularly those specified in Annexes II & IV of the Habitats Directive.	The action will facilitate the collection of baseline ecological surveying and ongoing monitoring on priority species and habitats in the Plan Area. This will underpin and support the effective implementation of the Plan, potentially leading to more focused and targeted biodiversity improvements. The action, in and of itself, will not result in any significant effects on the receiving environment due to the lack of a source of any negative impact.
	45.	Undertake an audit of existing biodiversity monitoring and research activity in County Wicklow, including species and habitat coverage, methodologies, partnerships, and data availability, to identify gaps and priorities for future work.	The action intends to undertake a review of existing monitoring and research activity within County Wicklow to identify opportunities for improvement and prioritisation for future work. The action furthers baseline ecological surveying within the Plan Area, which underpins and supports the effective implementation of the Plan. This leads to more focused and targeted biodiversity improvements.

Theme	Action Reference	Action	Potential Sources of Impact
			The action, being reviewed-based, will not result in any significant effects on the receiving environment due to the lack of a source of any negative impact.
	46.	Review and improve systems for biodiversity data management within WCC, and develop protocols to support the sharing of ecological data with key external partners, including the NBDC and NPWS.	The action will create and foster a collaborative approach to reviewing and improving existing systems for data management and sharing, which in turn facilitates knowledge exchange and improves expertise. The action will contribute to the effective delivery and implementation of the Plan, and biodiversity improvements generally. The action, in and of itself, will not result in any significant effects on the receiving environment due to the lack of a source of any negative impact.
	47.	Investigate options for assessing the impact of conservation actions in Wicklow, and for monitoring BAP implementation.	The action proposes exploring options for assessing the impacts of conservation actions in the Plan Area, including the monitoring of the implementation of the BAP. This can potentially involve the carrying out of ecological surveys, climate risk assessments and conservation initiatives within the Plan Area, which will underpin and support the effective implementation of the Plan, and lead to more focused and targeted biodiversity improvements within County Wicklow. The action, being research-based, will not result in any significant effects on the receiving environment due to the lack of a source of any negative impact.
	48.	Pilot ecosystem accounting approaches on WCC Lands and assess feasibility of undertaking a comprehensive Natural Capital Assessment for County Wicklow.	Ecosystem accounting is a statistical framework for organising data, tracking changes in the extents and conditions of ecosystems, measuring ecosystem services, and linking this information to economy and other human activity[11].

[11] *Ecosystem accounts – measuring the contribution of nature to the economy and human wellbeing* (Eurostat). Available at: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Ecosystem_accounts_-_measuring_the_contribution_of_nature_to_the_economy_and_human_wellbeing (Accessed September 2025)

Theme	Action Reference	Action	Potential Sources of Impact
			The action proposes the piloting of ecosystem accounting on local authority lands and additionally assess the feasibility of undertaking a comprehensive Natural Capital Assessment for the Plan Area, which can provide valuable information for sustainable decision-making. The action will underpin and support effective implementation of the BAP and potentially lead to more focused and targeted biodiversity improvements The action, being research-based, will not result in any significant effects on the receiving environment due to the lack of a source of any negative impact.
	49.	Compile and promote information on the biodiversity value of historic demesnes and graveyards.	The action will promote awareness of the biodiversity value of historic demesne and graveyards, which can foster interest in biodiversity protection and enhancement throughout the local community. The action, being awareness-based, will not result in any significant effects on the receiving environment due to the lack of a source of any negative impact.
	50.	Support feasibility studies for circular economy projects which may have biodiversity benefits (e.g. wild graveyards, uses of sheep wool, use of habitat management by-products.)	The action proposes undertaking feasibility studies for circular economy projects that can positively interact with biodiversity, such as the use of natural textiles, and the use of by-products harvested through habitat management of ecosystems. The action has positive implications for biodiversity, flora and fauna, air and climate and population and human health (economy), through potential reduced resource extraction if executed. The action, being research-based, will not result in any significant on the receiving environment due to the lack of a source of any negative impact.

3.2.1 Summary of the interactions of the Proposed Plan on the receiving environment

The LABAP provides a general framework for biodiversity protection and enhancement on lands in the Plan area. It defines the biodiversity actions that support and promote:

- Best practice biodiversity management and improvements,
- Local authority biodiversity protection and enhancement initiatives,
- The improvement of biodiversity on local authority controlled lands,
- Biodiversity training and awareness events,
- Biodiversity education and training,
- Planting of native species (i.e. trees, shrubs, plants etc.)
- Ecological surveying and mapping to identify areas of risk from threats and pressure and areas for targeted biodiversity protection/enhancement action,
- Collaborating with key stakeholders and the public to achieve biodiversity aims.

The range of Actions defined in the LABAP have the potential to have a range of positive environmental effects on biodiversity, including habitats, key species, designated sites and locally important non-designated sites.

All Actions in the LABAP are aimed at protecting and enhancing biodiversity. They have been carefully reviewed, and it has been concluded that these Actions do not have the potential to have unintended negative effects on the receiving environment.

The Actions in the LABAP do not support intensive land use or development projects sitting outside the land use planning framework that can cause significant negative environmental effects. The LABAP will not in and of itself set the context for future development consent. There is no real likelihood of significant negative environmental effects occurring as result of the implementation of the LABAP.

The implementation of the LABAP will not introduce any sources of negative environmental impact, such as:

- Land take;
- Resource Requirements (Drinking Water Abstraction Etc.);
- Emissions (Disposal to Land, Water or Air);
- Excavation Requirements;
- Transportation Requirements;
- Construction, Operation, Decommissioning.

The LABAP will not introduce any source of negative environmental impact which could result in or contribute to the following types of negative effect on a European site:

- Reduction of habitat area, habitat degradation or fragmentation;
- Disturbance to species, reduction in species populations and density;
- Changes in ecological functions and/or features that are essential for the ecological requirements of habitats and species (e.g. water quality and quantity);
- Interference with the key relationships that define the structure and function of the site.

The implementation of the LABAP will not result in any source of negative environmental impacts that may combine with effects occurring due to other plans or projects to create an 'in-combination' significant effect on a European site.

It is clear the LABAP will not generate any source of negative environmental impact that may result in a negative effect on any European site.

3.3 European Sites within the Zone of Influence (ZoI)

The OPR (2021) AA Screening practice note states that the Zone of Influence must be established on a case-by-case basis using the Source-Pathway-Receptor model. The S-P-R model has been used to identify the ZoI to ensure that relevant European sites are identified. The S-P-R model minimises the risk of overlooking distant or obscure effect pathways, while also avoiding an over reliance on buffer zones (e.g. 15 km), within which all European sites should be considered. This approach follows the DoEHLG (2009 rev 2010) guidance on AA which states that:

> *"For projects, the distance could be much less than 15 km, and in some cases less than 100m, but this must be evaluated on a case-by-case basis with reference to the nature, size and location of the project, and the sensitivities of the ecological receptors, and the potential for in combination effects"*

As detailed in Section 1.5 in order for an effect to occur, all three elements of this mechanism must be in place. The absence of one of the elements of the mechanism means there is no likelihood for the effect to occur. The potential impacts of the plan are set out in Section 3.2 of this report. The impact is essentially the 'source' in the S-P-R model.

These impacts may be very localised and confined to defined area with no potential connectivity to a European site and therefore no potential for effects. Alternatively, where an ecological or functional pathway exists, they may give rise to a potential effect to a Qualifying Interest of a European site.

The dominant ecological pathways to consider are:

- Direct physical interactions or changes to the local environment;
- Air dispersal (noise, dust, odour emissions etc.);
- Hydrological interactions; and
- Dispersal patterns of mobile species

Based on the precautionary principal, the Zone of Influence of the proposed plan has been defined as:

- All European sites locally either solely or partially in County Wicklow
- All hydrologically connected European Sites to waterbodies within County Wicklow; and
- All European sites within a 15km buffer of County Wicklow

All European sites within the Zone of Influence of the Plan area or which are connected to the Plan area ecologically, hydrologically or through hydrogeology have been identified - having appropriate regard to the interaction criteria defined in Section 1.5.

A map showing these European sites in or connected to the plan area is presented in Figure 3-1. Background information on these European sites is presented in Appendix 1, including:

- Quality and site characteristics of European sites considered in the assessment.
- Background data for European sites considered in the assessment; including the Qualifying features (Qualifying Interests or Special Conservation Interests).

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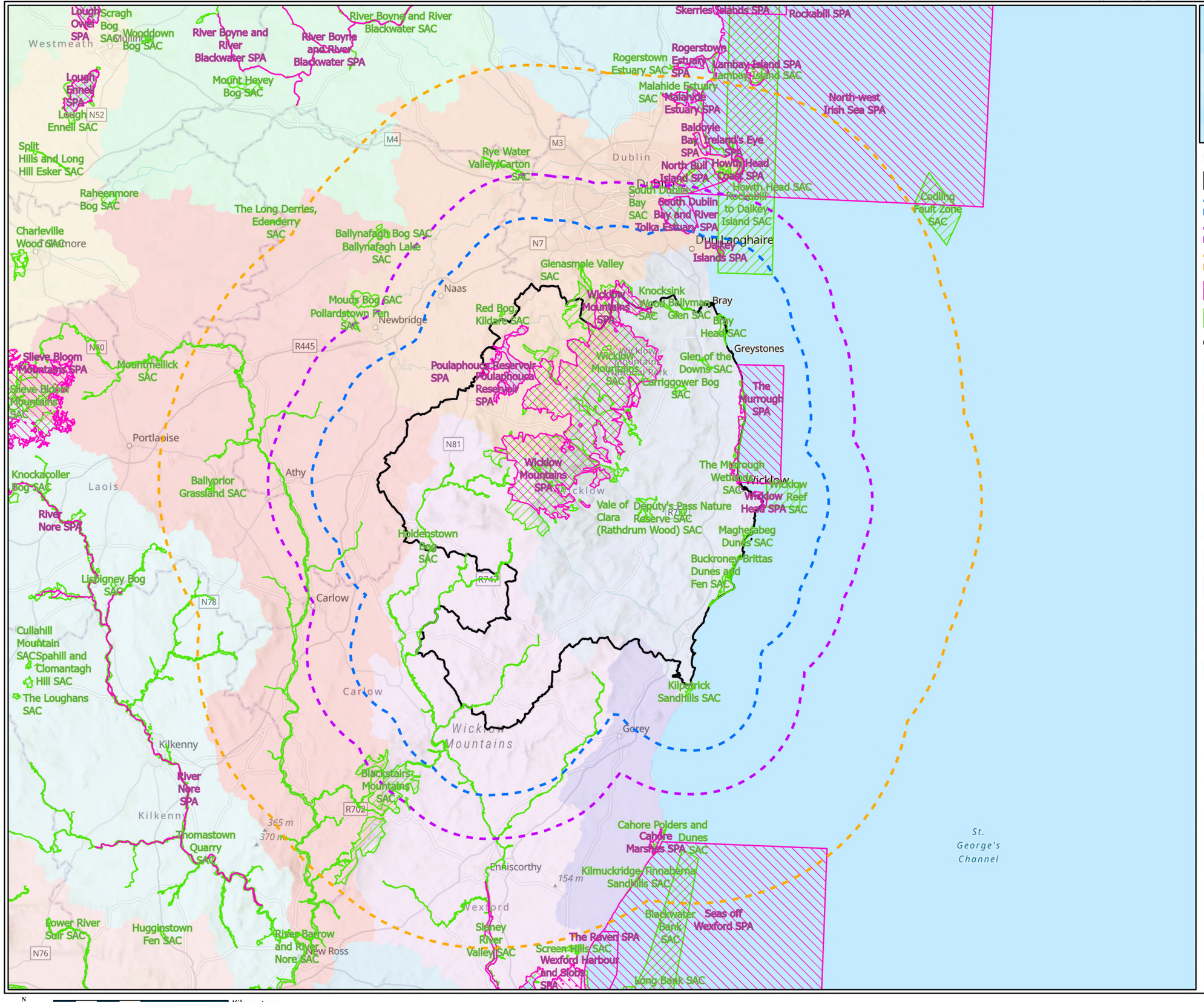

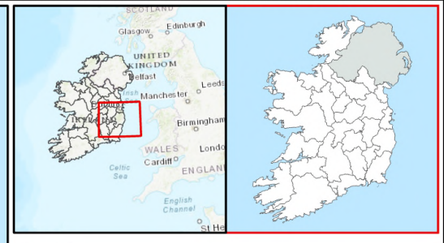

Legend

- County Boundary
- 15km
- 25km
- 50km
- Special Protection Areas
- Special Area of Conservation

Catchment Name

- Ballyteigue-Bannow
- Barrow
- Boyne
- Liffey and Dublin Bay
- Lower Shannon
- Nanny-Delvin
- Nore
- Ovoca-Vartry
- Owenavorragh
- Slaney & Wexford Harbour
- Suir
- Upper Shannon

N
W E
S

Kilometers
0 10 20 40

TITLE: European Sites with connectivity to County Wicklow			
PROJECT: SEA and AA Screening for Wicklow Biodiversity Action Plan			
FIGURE NO:	3.1		
CLIENT:	Wicklow County Council		
SCALE:	1:850,000	**REVISION:**	0
DATE:	19/09/2025	**PAGE SIZE:**	A3

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3.4 Consideration of in-combination Effects with other Plans or Projects

Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive requires that:

> *"Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives".*

It is therefore required that the likely significant effects of the plan are considered in-combination with other plans or projects within the Zone of Influence.

The consideration of in-combination effects with other plans or projects, focused on the sources of impacts identified for the plan in Section 3.2. The principal plans that are related to the LABAP are defined in Section 2.2.

The LABAP is in harmony and consistent with all inter-related plans, including land use plans relevant to the plan area, higher order heritage related plans, the Local Authority Climate Action Plan, the national Climate Action Plan and the 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan. The range of positive effects that may be realised by the implementation of the LABAP have the potential to interact and combine with positive effects associated with biodiversity measures defined in these inter-related plans to create larger, more significant positive effects.

All actions in the LABAP are aimed at protecting and enhancing biodiversity. The implementation of the LABAP will not give rise to likely significant negative effects on the environment that have the potential to interact and combine with negative effects associated with measures defined in these inter-related plans or projects to create larger, more significant negative effects.

The Plan does not therefore have any potential to contribute to in-combination likely significant effects on European sites that may occur due to the wider implementation of inter-related plans or projects.

3.5 Assessment of Likely Significant Effects

Table 3-2 examines whether there is potential for effects on identified European sites considering information provided above and the background information on the relevant European sites provided in Appendix 1.

Table 3-2: Identification of European Sites within the Zone of Influence of the Plan

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects	Likely Significant Effects
000717	Deputy's Pass Nature Reserve SAC	0	Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0]	The LABAP will not generate any source of negative environmental impacts that may result in a negative significant effect on this European Site.	No	No	No likely significant effects
001757	Holdenstown Bog SAC	0	Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140]	The LABAP will not generate any source of negative environmental impacts that may result in a negative significant effect on this European Site.	No	No	No likely significant effects
000714	Bray Head SAC	0	Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230] European dry heaths [4030]	The LABAP will not generate any source of negative environmental impacts that may result in a negative significant effect on this European Site.	No	No	No likely significant effects
002249	The Murrough Wetlands SAC	0	Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210] Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220] Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae) [1330] Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) [1410] Calcareous fens with Cladium mariscus and species of the Caricion davallianae [7210] Alkaline fens [7230]	The LABAP will not generate any source of negative environmental impacts that may result in a negative significant effect on this European Site.	No	No	No likely significant effects

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects	Likely Significant Effects
000716	Carriggower Bog SAC	0	Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140]	The LABAP will not generate any source of negative environmental impacts that may result in a negative significant effect on this European Site.	No	No	No likely significant effects
001742	Kilpatrick Sandhills SAC	0	Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210] Embryonic shifting dunes [2110] Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria (white dunes) [2120] Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130] Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (Calluno-Ulicetea) [2150]	The LABAP will not generate any source of negative environmental impacts that may result in a negative significant effect on this European Site.	No	No	No likely significant effects
000725	Knocksink Wood SAC	0	Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220] Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0] Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0]	The LABAP will not generate any source of negative environmental impacts that may result in a negative significant effect on this European Site.	No	No	No likely significant effects
000713	Ballyman Glen SAC	0	Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220] Alkaline fens [7230]	The LABAP will not generate any source of negative environmental impacts that may result in a negative significant effect on this European Site.	No	No	No likely significant effects
000733	Vale of Clara (Rathdrum Wood) SAC	0	Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0]	The LABAP will not generate any source of negative environmental impacts that may result in a negative significant effect on this European Site.	No	No	No likely significant effects

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects	Likely Significant Effects
000719	Glen of the Downs SAC	0	Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0]	The LABAP will not generate any source of negative environmental impacts that may result in a negative significant effect on this European Site.	No	No	No likely significant effects
001766	Magherabeg Dunes SAC	0	Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210] Embryonic shifting dunes [2110] Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria (white dunes) [2120] Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130] Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220]	The LABAP will not generate any source of negative environmental impacts that may result in a negative significant effect on this European Site.	No	No	No likely significant effects
000729	Buckroney-Brittas Dunes and Fen SAC	0	Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210] Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220] Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) [1410] Embryonic shifting dunes [2110] Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria (white dunes) [2120] Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130] Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (Calluno-Ulicetea) [2150] Dunes with Salix repens ssp. argentea (Salicion arenariae) [2170] Humid dune slacks [2190] Alkaline fens [7230]	The LABAP will not generate any source of negative environmental impacts that may result in a negative significant effect on this European Site.	No	No	No likely significant effects

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects	Likely Significant Effects
002122	Wicklow Mountains SAC	0	Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (Littorelletalia uniflorae) [3110] Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [3160] Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix [4010] European dry heaths [4030] Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060] Calaminarian grasslands of the Violetalia calaminariae [6130] Species-rich Nardus grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe) [6230] Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130] Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (Androsacetalia alpinae and Galeopsietalia ladani) [8110] Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8210] Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220] Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0] Lutra lutra (Otter) [1355]	The LABAP will not generate any source of negative environmental impacts that may result in a negative significant effect on this European Site.	No	No	No likely significant effects
000781	Slaney River Valley SAC	0	Estuaries [1130] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae) [1330] Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) [1410] Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation [3260]	The LABAP will not generate any source of negative environmental impacts that may result in a negative significant effect on this European Site.	No	No	No likely significant effects

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects	Likely Significant Effects
			Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0] Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0] Margaritifera margaritifera (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) [1029] Petromyzon marinus (Sea Lamprey) [1095] Lampetra planeri (Brook Lamprey) [1096] Lampetra fluviatilis (River Lamprey) [1099] Alosa fallax fallax (Twaite Shad) [1103] Salmo salar (Salmon) [1106] Lutra lutra (Otter) [1355] Phoca vitulina (Harbour Seal) [1365]				
004063	Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA	0	Greylag Goose (Anser anser) [A043] Lesser Black-backed Gull (Larus fuscus) [A183]	The LABAP will not generate any source of negative environmental impacts that may result in a negative significant effect on this European Site.	No	No	No likely significant effects
004186	The Murrough SPA	0	Red-throated Diver (Gavia stellata) [A001] Greylag Goose (Anser anser) [A043] Light-bellied Brent Goose (Branta bernicla hrota) [A046] Teal (Anas crecca) [A052] Black-headed Gull (Chroicocephalus ridibundus) [A179] Herring Gull (Larus argentatus) [A184] Wigeon (Mareca penelope) [A855] Little Tern (Sternula albifrons) [A885] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	The LABAP will not generate any source of negative environmental impacts that may result in a negative significant effect on this European Site.	No	No	No likely significant effects

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects	Likely Significant Effects
004127	Wicklow Head SPA	0	Kittiwake (Rissa tridactyla) [A188]	The LABAP will not generate any source of negative environmental impacts that may result in a negative significant effect on this European Site.	No	No	No likely significant effects
000397	Red Bog, Kildare SAC	0.28	Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140]	The LABAP will not generate any source of negative environmental impacts that may result in a negative significant effect on this European Site.	No	No	No likely significant effects
002274	Wicklow Reef SAC	0.47	Reefs [1170]	The LABAP will not generate any source of negative environmental impacts that may result in a negative significant effect on this European Site.	No	No	No likely significant effects
001209	Glenasmole Valley SAC	1.77	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (* important orchid sites) [6210] Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae) [6410] Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220]	The LABAP will not generate any source of negative environmental impacts that may result in a negative significant effect on this European Site.	No	No	No likely significant effects
003000	Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC	4.16	Reefs [1170] Phocoena phocoena (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]	The LABAP will not generate any source of negative environmental impacts that may result in a negative significant effect on this European Site.	No	No	No likely significant effects
002162	River Barrow and River Nore SAC	4.68	Estuaries [1130] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] Reefs [1170] Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310]	The LABAP will not generate any source of negative environmental impacts that may result in a negative significant effect on this European Site.	No	No	No likely significant effects

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects	Likely Significant Effects
			Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae) [1330] Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) [1410] Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation [3260] European dry heaths [4030] Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels [6430] Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220] Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0] Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0] Vertigo moulinsiana (Desmoulin's Whorl Snail) [1016] Margaritifera margaritifera (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) [1029] Austropotamobius pallipes (White-clawed Crayfish) [1092] Petromyzon marinus (Sea Lamprey) [1095] Lampetra planeri (Brook Lamprey) [1096] Lampetra fluviatilis (River Lamprey) [1099] Alosa fallax fallax (Twaite Shad) [1103] Salmo salar (Salmon) [1106] Lutra lutra (Otter) [1355] Vandenboschia speciosa (Killarney Fern) [6985]				

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects	Likely Significant Effects
004172	Dalkey Islands SPA	6.52	Roseate Tern (Sterna dougallii) [A192] Common Tern (Sterna hirundo) [A193] Arctic Tern (Sterna paradisaea) [A194]	The LABAP will not generate any source of negative environmental impacts that may result in a negative significant effect on this European Site.	No	No	No likely significant effects
004024	South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA	8.54	ight-bellied Brent Goose (Branta bernicla hrota) [A046] Oystercatcher (Haematopus ostralegus) [A130] Ringed Plover (Charadrius hiaticula) [A137] Grey Plover (Pluvialis squatarola) [A141] Knot (Calidris canutus) [A143] Sanderling (Calidris alba) [A144] Dunlin (Calidris alpina) [A149] Bar-tailed Godwit (Limosa lapponica) [A157] Redshank (Tringa totanus) [A162] Black-headed Gull (Chroicocephalus ridibundus) [A179] Roseate Tern (Sterna dougallii) [A192] Common Tern (Sterna hirundo) [A193] Arctic Tern (Sterna paradisaea) [A194] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	The LABAP will not generate any source of negative environmental impacts that may result in a negative significant effect on this European Site.	No	No	No likely significant effects
000210	South Dublin Bay SAC	8.54	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210] Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310] Embryonic shifting dunes [2110]	The LABAP will not generate any source of negative environmental impacts that may result in a negative significant effect on this European Site.	No	No	No likely significant effects

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects	Likely Significant Effects
000770	Blackstairs Mountains SAC	10.73	Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix [4010] European dry heaths [4030]	The LABAP will not generate any source of negative environmental impacts that may result in a negative significant effect on this European Site.	No	No	No likely significant effects
000396	Pollardstown Fen SAC	13.75	Calcareous fens with Cladium mariscus and species of the Caricion davallianae [7210] Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220] Alkaline fens [7230] Vertigo geyeri (Geyer's Whorl Snail) [1013] Vertigo angustior (Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail) [1014] Vertigo moulinsiana (Desmoulin's Whorl Snail) [1016]	The LABAP will not generate any source of negative environmental impacts that may result in a negative significant effect on this European Site.	No	No	No likely significant effects
004006	North Bull Island SPA	13.98	Light-bellied Brent Goose (Branta bernicla hrota) [A046] Shelduck (Tadorna tadorna) [A048] Teal (Anas crecca) [A052] Pintail (Anas acuta) [A054] Oystercatcher (Haematopus ostralegus) [A130] Golden Plover (Pluvialis apricaria) [A140] Grey Plover (Pluvialis squatarola) [A141] Knot (Calidris canutus) [A143] Sanderling (Calidris alba) [A144] Dunlin (Calidris alpina) [A149] Black-tailed Godwit (Limosa limosa) [A156] Bar-tailed Godwit (Limosa lapponica) [A157] Curlew (Numenius arquata) [A160]	The LABAP will not generate any source of negative environmental impacts that may result in a negative significant effect on this European Site.	No	No	No likely significant effects

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects	Likely Significant Effects
			Redshank (Tringa totanus) [A162] Turnstone (Arenaria interpres) [A169] Black-headed Gull (Chroicocephalus ridibundus) [A179] Shoveler (Spatula clypeata) [A857] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]				
004236	North-west Irish Sea SPA	13.98	Red-throated Diver (Gavia stellata) [A001] Great Northern Diver (Gavia immer) [A003] Fulmar (Fulmarus glacialis) [A009] Manx Shearwater (Puffinus puffinus) [A013] Cormorant (Phalacrocorax carbo) [A017] Shag (Phalacrocorax aristotelis) [A018] Common Scoter (Melanitta nigra) [A065] Black-headed Gull (Chroicocephalus ridibundus) [A179] Common Gull (Larus canus) [A182] Lesser Black-backed Gull (Larus fuscus) [A183] Herring Gull (Larus argentatus) [A184] Great Black-backed Gull (Larus marinus) [A187] Kittiwake (Rissa tridactyla) [A188] Roseate Tern (Sterna dougallii) [A192] Common Tern (Sterna hirundo) [A193] Arctic Tern (Sterna paradisaea) [A194] Guillemot (Uria aalge) [A199] Razorbill (Alca torda) [A200] Puffin (Fratercula arctica) [A204]	The LABAP will not generate any source of negative environmental impacts that may result in a negative significant effect on this European Site.	No	No	No likely significant effects

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects	Likely Significant Effects
			Little Gull (Hydrocoloeus minutus) [A862] Little Tern (Sternula albifrons) [A885]				
000206	North Dublin Bay SAC	14.00	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210] Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310] Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae) [1330] Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) [1410] Embryonic shifting dunes [2110] Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria (white dunes) [2120] Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130] Humid dune slacks [2190] Petalophyllum ralfsii (Petalwort) [1395]	The LABAP will not generate any source of negative environmental impacts that may result in a negative significant effect on this European Site.	No	No	No likely significant effects
001398	Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC	14.32	Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220] Vertigo angustior (Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail) [1014] Vertigo moulinsiana (Desmoulin's Whorl Snail) [1016]	The LABAP will not generate any source of negative environmental impacts that may result in a negative significant effect on this European Site.	No	No	No likely significant effects
002331	Mouds Bog SAC	15.68	Active raised bogs [7110] Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120] Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150]	The LABAP will not generate any source of negative environmental impacts that may result in a negative significant effect on this European Site.	No	No	No likely significant effects

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects	Likely Significant Effects
000202	Howth Head SAC	16.70	Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230] European dry heaths [4030]	The LABAP will not generate any source of negative environmental impacts that may result in a negative significant effect on this European Site.	No	No	No likely significant effects
004113	Howth Head Coast SPA	16.81	Kittiwake (Rissa tridactyla) [A188]	The LABAP will not generate any source of negative environmental impacts that may result in a negative significant effect on this European Site.	No	No	No likely significant effects
001387	Ballynafagh Lake SAC	17.95	Alkaline fens [7230] Vertigo moulinsiana (Desmoulin's Whorl Snail) [1016] Euphydryas aurinia (Marsh Fritillary) [1065]	The LABAP will not generate any source of negative environmental impacts that may result in a negative significant effect on this European Site.	No	No	No likely significant effects
000199	Baldoyle Bay SAC	19.55	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310] Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae) [1330] Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) [1410]	The LABAP will not generate any source of negative environmental impacts that may result in a negative significant effect on this European Site.	No	No	No likely significant effects
004016	Baldoyle Bay SPA	19.56	Light-bellied Brent Goose (Branta bernicla hrota) [A046] Shelduck (Tadorna tadorna) [A048] Ringed Plover (Charadrius hiaticula) [A137] Golden Plover (Pluvialis apricaria) [A140] Grey Plover (Pluvialis squatarola) [A141] Bar-tailed Godwit (Limosa lapponica) [A157] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	The LABAP will not generate any source of negative environmental impacts that may result in a negative significant effect on this European Site.	No	No	No likely significant effects

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects	Likely Significant Effects
000700	Cahore Polders and Dunes SAC	19.91	Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210] Embryonic shifting dunes [2110] Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria (white dunes) [2120] Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130] Humid dune slacks [2190]	The LABAP will not generate any source of negative environmental impacts that may result in a negative significant effect on this European Site.	No	No	No likely significant effects
004143	Cahore Marshes SPA	20.12	Golden Plover (Pluvialis apricaria) [A140] Lapwing (Vanellus vanellus) [A142] Greenland White-fronted Goose (Anser albifrons flavirostris) [A395] Wigeon (Mareca penelope) [A855] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	The LABAP will not generate any source of negative environmental impacts that may result in a negative significant effect on this European Site.	No	No	No likely significant effects
004117	Ireland's Eye SPA	20.72	Cormorant (Phalacrocorax carbo) [A017] Herring Gull (Larus argentatus) [A184] Kittiwake (Rissa tridactyla) [A188] Guillemot (Uria aalge) [A199] Razorbill (Alca torda) [A200]	The LABAP will not generate any source of negative environmental impacts that may result in a negative significant effect on this European Site.	No	No	No likely significant effects
004076	Wexford Harbour and Slobs SPA	21.10	Little Grebe (Tachybaptus ruficollis) [A004] Great Crested Grebe (Podiceps cristatus) [A005] Cormorant (Phalacrocorax carbo) [A017] Grey Heron (Ardea cinerea) [A028] Bewick's Swan (Cygnus columbianus bewickii) [A037] Whooper Swan (Cygnus cygnus) [A038]	The LABAP will not generate any source of negative environmental impacts that may result in a negative significant effect on this European Site.	No	No	No likely significant effects

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects	Likely Significant Effects
			Light-bellied Brent Goose (Branta bernicla hrota) [A046] Shelduck (Tadorna tadorna) [A048] Teal (Anas crecca) [A052] Mallard (Anas platyrhynchos) [A053] Pintail (Anas acuta) [A054] Scaup (Aythya marila) [A062] Goldeneye (Bucephala clangula) [A067] Red-breasted Merganser (Mergus serrator) [A069] Hen Harrier (Circus cyaneus) [A082] Coot (Fulica atra) [A125] Oystercatcher (Haematopus ostralegus) [A130] Golden Plover (Pluvialis apricaria) [A140] Grey Plover (Pluvialis squatarola) [A141] Lapwing (Vanellus vanellus) [A142] Knot (Calidris canutus) [A143] Sanderling (Calidris alba) [A144] Dunlin (Calidris alpina) [A149] Black-tailed Godwit (Limosa limosa) [A156] Bar-tailed Godwit (Limosa lapponica) [A157] Curlew (Numenius arquata) [A160] Redshank (Tringa totanus) [A162] Black-headed Gull (Chroicocephalus ridibundus) [A179] Lesser Black-backed Gull (Larus fuscus) [A183]				

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects	Likely Significant Effects
			Greenland White-fronted Goose (Anser albifrons flavirostris) [A395] Wigeon (Mareca penelope) [A855] Little Tern (Sternula albifrons) [A885] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]				
004237	Seas off Wexford SPA	21.91	Red-throated Diver (Gavia stellata) [A001] Fulmar (Fulmarus glacialis) [A009] Manx Shearwater (Puffinus puffinus) [A013] Gannet (Morus bassanus) [A016] Cormorant (Phalacrocorax carbo) [A017] Shag (Phalacrocorax aristotelis) [A018] Common Scoter (Melanitta nigra) [A065] Mediterranean Gull (Larus melanocephalus) [A176] Black-headed Gull (Chroicocephalus ridibundus) [A179] Lesser Black-backed Gull (Larus fuscus) [A183] Herring Gull (Larus argentatus) [A184] Kittiwake (Rissa tridactyla) [A188] Roseate Tern (Sterna dougallii) [A192] Common Tern (Sterna hirundo) [A193] Arctic Tern (Sterna paradisaea) [A194] Guillemot (Uria aalge) [A199] Razorbill (Alca torda) [A200] Puffin (Fratercula arctica) [A204] Sandwich Tern (Thalasseus sandvicensis) [A863]	The LABAP will not generate any source of negative environmental impacts that may result in a negative significant effect on this European Site.	No	No	No likely significant effects

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects	Likely Significant Effects
			Little Tern (Sternula albifrons) [A885]				
002256	Ballyprior Grassland SAC	22.48	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (* important orchid sites) [6210]	The LABAP will not generate any source of negative environmental impacts that may result in a negative significant effect on this European Site.	No	No	No likely significant effects
002953	Blackwater Bank SAC	22.87	Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time [1110] Phocoena phocoena (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]	The LABAP will not generate any source of negative environmental impacts that may result in a negative significant effect on this European Site.	No	No	No likely significant effects
000205	Malahide Estuary SAC	24.02	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310] Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae) [1330] Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) [1410] Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria (white dunes) [2120] Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130]	The LABAP will not generate any source of negative environmental impacts that may result in a negative significant effect on this European Site.	No	No	No likely significant effects
004025	Malahide Estuary SPA	24.77	Great Crested Grebe (Podiceps cristatus) [A005] Light-bellied Brent Goose (Branta bernicla hrota) [A046] Shelduck (Tadorna tadorna) [A048] Pintail (Anas acuta) [A054] Goldeneye (Bucephala clangula) [A067] Red-breasted Merganser (Mergus serrator) [A069] Oystercatcher (Haematopus ostralegus) [A130]	The LABAP will not generate any source of negative environmental impacts that may result in a negative significant effect on this European Site.	No	No	No likely significant effects

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects	Likely Significant Effects
			Golden Plover (Pluvialis apricaria) [A140] Grey Plover (Pluvialis squatarola) [A141] Knot (Calidris canutus) [A143] Dunlin (Calidris alpina) [A149] Black-tailed Godwit (Limosa limosa) [A156] Bar-tailed Godwit (Limosa lapponica) [A157] Redshank (Tringa totanus) [A162] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]				
001741	Kilmuckridge-Tinnaberna Sandhills SAC	26.59	Embryonic shifting dunes [2110] Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria (white dunes) [2120] Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130]	The LABAP will not generate any source of negative environmental impacts that may result in a negative significant effect on this European Site.	No	No	No likely significant effects

4. SCREENING CONCLUSION

This report presents an examination of whether the Wicklow LABAP is likely to have a significant effect on a European site (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) and is based on best available scientific knowledge. This report has been prepared to inform the competent authority in completing their statutory obligations in relation to Appropriate Assessment, as required by Article 6(3) under Council Directive 92/43/EEC (Habitats Directive).

It can be concluded beyond reasonable scientific doubt, in view of best scientific knowledge, on the basis of objective information, that the Plan, individually or in combination with other plans and projects, is not likely to have a significant effect on European sites. The principal reasons for this are as follows:

- The LABAP does not introduce any source of impacts that have potential for interactions with the receiving environment.
- All actions in the LABAP are aimed at protecting and enhancing biodiversity. There is no requirement to integrate further environmental considerations into the LABAP given its intrinsic nature, its stated aims and objectives, and the potential positive effects associated with its actions.
- The LABAP is in alignment with nature legislation and higher order policy such as the 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan and inter-related plans and programmes.
- The actions in the LABAP do not support intensive land use or development projects sitting outside the land use planning framework that can cause likely significant negative environmental effects.
- The LABAP is not a statutory land use plan. The LABAP will not in and of itself set the context for future development consent. Any lower-order plans and projects supported by the Plan shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment Screening, where necessary, in accordance with the requirements of European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (as amended) or the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), as the case may be.

All amendments made to the Draft LABAP over the Plan-making process were also subject to further AA Screening (See Appendix 2). It has been concluded that there is no real likelihood of significant negative environmental effects occurring as a result of these amendments. The principal reason for this is as follows:

- The amendments are minor and will not introduce a source of negative impact that will result in adverse effects on the receiving environment.

The implementation of the County Wicklow LABAP has no potential to result in likely significant effects on European Sites for the reasons set out above. There, a full AA of the Wicklow County Council Local Authority Biodiversity Action Plan 2026-2031 is not required.

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APPENDIX 1

Background Information on European Sites

Appendix 1 - Table 1 Quality and site characteristics of European sites considered in the assessment

Site Code	Site Name	Quality of Site	Other Site Characteristics
000397	Red Bog Kildare SAC	The site displays a succession from open water (eutrophic in status) to ombrotrophic bog. Transition mire vegetation is considered to be well represented at this site with some typical species. A small colony of Larus ridibundus has bred in the past (current status unknown) which is one of few nesting sites in eastern Ireland and the site also has breeding Aythya fuligula and Fulica atra.	The site comprises a relatively small wetland which lies between moranic ridges. Open water is a principal habitat though there are no obvious inflowing or outflowing streams. Open water is fringed by various wetland habitats with bog (raised type) fens and freshwater marsh. Some willow (Salix spp.) occurs. The surrounding land is improved grassland. An extensive quarrying operation occurs to the east and south of site.
000714	Bray Head SAC	Site supports a fine diversity of maritime habitats and is particularly important for vegetated sea cliffs and dry heath. Both of these are good representatives of the types which occur in eastern Ireland and are generally of good quality. Four Red Data Book plant species occur within site. Has breeding Falco peregrinus and a significant seabird colony especially for Rissa tridactyla and Cepphus grylle (both nationally important). Site is noted for the presence of the fossil Oldhamia radiata which is of Cambrian age. Owing to its proximity to urban areas site has important educational potential.	Site is situated in the north-east of Co. Wicklow between the towns of Bray and Greystones. Bedrock geology is Cambrian quartzites and shales (with mudstones and greywackes). Bray Head consists of a plateau of high ground with five prominent quartzite knolls and a maximum height of 241 m. The more exposed higher ground has a covering of shallow acidic soils with protruding bedrock and scree. Elsewhere deeper soils are formed by drift deposits calcareous in character. In addition to heath and cliff habitats the site supports calcareous grassland some native woodland and scrub and a sandy/shingle beach. An area of shallow marine water is included for ornithological reasons. Main landuse within site is recreation especially walking.
000781	Slaney River Valley SAC	Estuaries and intertidal sand and mud flats are particularly well represented in this site with salinity ranging from full freshwater to full seawater. The quality of these habitats is generally good. The Slaney River and its tributaries display good examples of floating river vegetation. An important area of alluvial forest is found at Macmine while old oak woodlands occur at Toomnafinnoge the latter being a remnant of the ancient oak woods of Shillelagh. The site is of high importance for the conservation of fish species notably Salmo salar Petromyzon marinus Lampetra fluviatilis L. planeri and the very localised Alosa fallax fallax. Lutra lutra is well distributed throughout while a significant population of Margaritifera margaritifera occurs on the Derreen River.	This site comprises almost the entire Slaney system from the headwater streams in the Wicklow Mountains to the extensive estuarine area of Wexford Harbour. The main river tributaries included are the Bann Glasha Clody Derry Derreen Douglas and Carrigower Rivers. The tidal influence extends upriver as far as Enniscorthy. In the upper and central regions the geology consists of granite. Above Kilcarry Bridge the Slaney has cut a gorge into the granite plain. The Derry and Bann Rivers are bounded by a narrow line of uplands which corresponds to schist outcrops. South of Kildavin the Slaney flows through an area of Ordovician slates and grits.

Site Code	Site Name	Quality of Site	Other Site Characteristics
		The site provides year-round haul-out habitat for the Annex II species Phoca vitulina and includes regionally significant breeding and moulting sites. The site has high ornithological importance especially for wintering waterfowl with internationally important populations of Branta bernicla hrota Cygnus olor Limosa limosa and Limosa lapponica. There is at least a further 14 species of wintering waterfowl which occur in numbers of national importance. Wintering Larus gulls are well represented especially Larus ridibundus and Larus fuscus. A nesting colony of Egretta garzetta has recently become established within the site and birds are present in the area throughout the year. The site supports one of the best breeding concentrations of Acrocephalus scirpaeus in the country. A range of flora and fauna species listed as Red Data Book species occur within the site.	The river is often fringed by woodland and/or swamp vegetation. Other habitats which occur alongside the river include wet grassland scrub and in higher areas heath and bog. Improved grassland and arable land is included alongside the river for water quality reasons. Salt marshes are a feature of the lower estuarine area of the site.
001742	Kilpatrick Sandhills SAC	Despite its small size this site is important as an example of a relatively intact sand dune system which shows the various development stages of dunes with embryonic dunes white dunes grey fixed dunes and decalcified fixed dunes all represented. The presence of decalcified dune heath is of particular importance owing to its rarity in Ireland generally and particularly on the east coast. The dunes are mostly intact and of good quality.	Situated on the north Co. Wexford coast this site comprises a mature dune system which extends south from Kilmichael Point for a distance of about 2 km. There is a fine transition from a sandy beach through various types of dune types including dune heath. Behind the dunes there is an area of freshwater marsh a small area of wet woodland and some wet grassland. Part of this area floods at times. At Kilmichael Point there are low cliffs (<15 m) covered by boulder clay and a sandy grassland. A bedrock shoreline occurs below the cliffs.
003000	Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC	The area selected for designation represents a key habitat for the Annex II species - harbour porpoise within the Irish Sea. Population survey data show that porpoise occurrence within the site boundary meets suitable reference values for other designated sites in Ireland. The species occurs year-round within the site and comparatively high group sizes have been recorded. Porpoises with young (i.e. calves) are observed at favourable typical reference values for the species. Casual and effort-related sighting rates from coastal observation stations are significant for the east coast of Ireland and the latter appear to be relatively stable across all seasons.	The selected site forms a strip of dynamic inshore and coastal waters in the western Irish Sea extending approximately 40 km in length and encompassing a range of comparatively shallow marine habitats including diverse seabed structures reefs islets and islands. It borders existing designated sites for Annexed species and habitats and is adjacent to a wide array of coastal features e.g. mudflats lagoons estuaries coastal cliffs sea caves several of which are also designated. Extending east from Dublin Bay towards the offshore Kish Bank the site contains the entire Burford Bank a sedimentary seabed structure (i.e. fine sand) at the mouth of Dublin Bay that on its north side is flanked by gravel and coarse sand deposits.

Site Code	Site Name	Quality of Site	Other Site Characteristics
		The selected site contains a wide array of habitats believed to be important for harbour porpoise including inshore shallow sand and mud-banks and rocky reefs scoured by strong current flow. The site also contains two Annex II seal species – Harbour seal (Phoca vitulina vitulina) Grey seal (Halichoerus grypus) for which terrestrial haul-out sites occur in immediate proximity to the site. Bottlenose dolphin (Tursiops truncatus) has also occasionally been recorded in the area. Along the eastern seaboard the habitat type Reef is uncommon due to prevailing geology and hydrographical conditions. Expansive surveys of the Irish coast have indicated that the greatest resource of this habitat within the Irish Sea is found fringing offshore islands which are concentrated along the Dublin coast. A detailed survey of selected suitable islands has shown areas with typical biodiversity for this habitat both intertidally and subtidally. These Reefs are subject to strong tidal currents with an abundant supply of suspended matter resulting in good representation of filter feeding fauna such as sponges anemones and echinoderms.	The site also contains the northern segment of the Frazer Bank (i.e. fine sand) off Dalkey Island and Killiney Bay. Reef habitats within the site occur at Dalkey Island Maiden Rock and Muglins in the southern portion off Howth Head Ireland's Eye and Lambay Island in the central portion and Rockabill in North Dublin.
004006	North Bull Island SPA	The site is among the top ten sites for wintering waterfowl in the country. It supports internationally important populations of Branta bernicila hrota and Limosa lapponica and is the top site in the country for both of these species. A further 14 species have populations of national importance with particular notable numbers of Tadorna tadorna (8.5% of national total) Anas acuta (11.6% of national total) Pluvialis squatarola (6.9% of national total) Calidris canutus (10.5% of national total). North Bull Island SPA is a regular site for passage waders such as Philomachus pugnax Calidris ferruginea and Tringa erythropus. The site supports Asio flammeus in winter. Formerly the site had an important colony of Sterna albifrons but breeding has not occurred in recent years. The site provides both feeding and roosting areas for the waterfowl species. Habitat quality for most of the estuarine habitats is very good. The site has a population of the rare Petalophyllum ralfsii which is the only known station away from the western seaboard as well as five Red Data Book vascular plant species and four bryophyte species.	The North Bull Island sand spit is a relatively recent depositional feature formed as a result of improvements to Dublin Port during the 18th and 19th centuries. It is almost 5km long and 1km wide and runs parallel to the coast between Clontarf and Sutton. The sediment which forms the island is predominantly glacial in origin and siliceous in nature. A well-developed dune system runs the length of the island with good examples of embryonic shifting marram and fixed dunes as well as excellent examples of humid dune slacks. Extensive salt marshes also occur. Between the island and the mainland occur two sheltered intertidal areas which are separated by a solid causeway constructed in 1964. The seaward side of the island has a fine sandy beach. A substantial area of shallow marine water is included in the site. Part of the interior of the island has been converted to golf courses. The proximity of the North Bull Island to Dublin City results in it being a very popular recreational area.

Site Code	Site Name	Quality of Site	Other Site Characteristics
		It is nationally important for three insect species. Wintering bird populations have been monitored more or less continuously since the late 1960s and the other scientific interests of the site have also been well documented. Future prospects are good owing to various designations assigned to site.	It is also very important for educational and research purposes. Nature conservation is a main landuse within the site.
004024	South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA	The site possesses extensive intertidal flats which support wintering waterfowl which are part of the overall Dublin Bay population. It regularly has an internationally important population of Branta bernicla hrota which feeds on Zostera noltii in the autumn. It has nationally important numbers of a further 6 species: Haematopus ostralegus Charadrius hiaticula Calidris canutus Calidris alba Calidris alpina and Limosa lapponica. It is an important site for wintering gulls especially Larus ridibundus and Larus canus. South Dublin Bay is the premier site in Ireland for Larus melanocephalus with up to 20 birds present at times. Is a regular autumn roosting ground for significant numbers of terns including Sterna dougallii S. hirundo and S. paradisaea.	This site comprises a substantial part of Dublin Bay. It includes virtually all of the intertidal area in the south bay as well as much of the Tolka Estuary to the north of the River Liffey. A portion of the shallow bay waters is also included. In the south bay the intertidal flats extend for almost 3 km at their widest. The sediments are predominantly well-aerated sands. The sands support the largest stand of Zostera noltii on the East Coast. Several permanent channels exist the largest being Cockle Lake. A small sandy beach occurs at Merrion Gates while some bedrock shore occurs near Dun Laoghaire. The landward boundary is now almost entirely artificially embanked. Sediments in the Tolka Estuary vary from soft thixotrophic muds with a high organic content in the inner estuary to exposed well aerated sands off the Bull Wall. The proximity of the site to Dublin City results in it being a very popular recreational area. It is also important for educational and research purposes.
004040	Wicklow Mountains SPA	The site supports good examples of both upland and woodland bird communities. It has breeding Falco columbarius and Falco peregrinus as well as Turdus torquatus and Lagopus lagopus both of the latter being Red-listed in Ireland. It is the only site in Ireland where Mergus merganser breeds regularly. It is important for rare breeding passerines of oakwoods notably Phoenicurus phoenicurus and Phylloscopus sibilatrix. It also has Sylvia borin and Sylvia atricapilla.	This is an extensive upland site comprising a substantial part of the Wicklow Mountains. The underlying geology of the site is mainly of Leinster granites flanked by Ordovician schists mudstones and volcanics. The area was subject to glaciation and features fine examples of glacial lakes deep valleys and moraines. Most of site is over 300 m with much ground over 600 m and the highest peak of Lugnaquillia at 925 m. The substrate over much of site is peat with poor mineral soil occurring on the slopes and lower ground. Exposed rock and scree are features of the site. The dominant habitats present are blanket bog heaths and upland grassland. Fine examples of native Oak woodlands are found in the Glendalough area. The site which is within the Wicklow Mountains National Park is fragmented into about 20 separate parcels of land.

Site Code	Site Name	Quality of Site	Other Site Characteristics
004127	Wicklow Head SPA	Wicklow Head SPA has a good diversity of breeding seabirds with nationally important populations of Rissa tridactyla and Cepphus grylle and regionally important numbers of Fulmarus glacilis Uria aalge and Alca torda. This seabird colony has developed mostly since the 1970s and has been monitored regularly since. The site also supports a pair of breeding Falco peregrinus and has some typical heathland species including Sylvia communis.	Wicklow Head is a rocky headland with extensive exposures of mica-schist. It is situated approximately 3 km south of Wicklow town. A lighthouse is located near the base of the cliffs. The cliffs which extend for about 3 km are highest immediately south of the lighthouse where they rise to about 60 m and it is here that most of the seabirds breed. The site comprises the cliffs and cliff-top vegetation as well as some heath vegetation. The marine area to a distance of 500 m from the base of the cliffs where seabirds forage bathe and socialise is included in the site.
000206	North Dublin Bay SAC	Site possesses an excellent diversity of coastal habitats. The North Bull Island dune system is one of the most important systems on the east coast and is one of the few in Ireland that is actively accreting. It possesses extensive and mostly good quality examples of embryonic shifting marram and fixed dunes as well as excellent examples of humid dune slacks. Both Atlantic and Mediterranean salt marshes are well represented and a particularly good marsh zonation is shown. The salt marshes grade into mudflats and sandflats some of which are dominated by annual Salicornia species. Petalophyllum ralfsii occurs at its only known station away from the western seaboard. The site has five Red Data Book vascular plant species and four Red Data Book bryophyte species. This is one of the most important sites for wintering waterfowl in Ireland with internationally important populations of Branta bernicla horta Calidris canutus and Limosa lapponica plus nationally important numbers of a further 14 species. 20% of the national total of Pluvialis squatarola occurs here. Formerly it had important colony of Sterna albifrons. North Dublin Bay is nationally important for three insect species. The scientific interests of the site have been well documented and future prospects are good owing to the various designations assigned to site.	The North Bull Island sand spit is a relatively recent depositional feature formed as a result of improvements to Dublin Port during the 18th and 19th centuries. It is almost 5km long and 1km wide and runs parallel to the coast between Clontarf and Sutton. The sediment which forms the island is predominantly glacial in origin and siliceous in nature. Between the island and the mainland there occurs two sheltered intertidal areas which are separated by a solid causeway constructed in 1964. The seaward side of the island has a fine sandy beach. A substantial area of shallow marine water is included in the site. The interior of the island is excluded from the site as it has been converted to golf courses. The proximity of the North Bull Island to Dublin City results in it being a very popular recreational area. It is also very important for educational and research purposes. Nature conservation is a main landuse within the site.
000210	South Dublin Bay SAC	Site possesses a fine and fairly extensive example of intertidal flats. Sediment type is predominantly sand with muddy sands in the more sheltered areas. A typical macro-invertebrate fauna exists. Has the largest stand of Zostera on the east coast. Supports part of the important wintering waterfowl populations of Dublin Bay.	This intertidal site extends from the South Wall at Dublin Port to the West Pier at Dun Laoghaire a distance of c. 5 km. At their widest the intertidal flats extend for almost 3 km. The seaward boundary is marked by the low tide mark while the landward boundary is now almost entirely artificially embanked.

Site Code	Site Name	Quality of Site	Other Site Characteristics
		Regularly has an internationally population of Branta bernicila horta plus nationally important numbers of at least a further 6 species including Limosa lapponica. Regular autumn roosting ground for significant numbers of Sterna terns including S. dougallii. The scientific interests of the site have been well documented.	Several permanent channels exist the largest being Cockle Lake. A small sandy beach occurs at Merrion Gates while some bedrock shore occurs near Dun Laoghaire. A number of small streams and drains flow into the site. The proximity of the site to Dublin City results in it being a very popular recreational area. It is also important for educational and research purposes.
000713	Ballyman Glen SAC	A small but extremely species-rich site with a high diversity of habitats in a predominantly agricultural area. The site is notable for the presence of many petrifying springs for alkaline fen and for wet woodland.	A small glen cut through calcareous sands and gravels with a tributary stream of the Dargle river flowing west to east through it. The site supports a strip of wet woodland a small area of alkaline fen fed by petrifying springs and grades to scrub and dry calcareous grassland on the upper edges of the valley sides.
000717	Deputy's Pass Nature Reserve SAC	This wood is a good example of the Blechno-quercetum petraeae association which is characteristic of the valleys of Wicklow mountains. Oak is dominant over more than half of the site the remainder being a mix of deciduous (native and non-native species) and coniferous woodland. The structure and species composition of the oak-dominated areas appear typical and there is natural regeneration. A narrow area of wet woodland (Fraxinus icorylus) along a small stream adds diversity to the site. This wood although relatively small is an important link in a series of oakwoods which extend from Glen of the Downs across to the Glendalough area.	This site is situated on the eastern flank of a glacial overflow channel aligned in a southwest to north east direction. The underlying rock is a mixture of cambrian and lower silurian deposits. Soils are acid brown earths to podzolics. Deputy's Pass wood is the most intact remnant of the once extensive Glenealy Oakwoods now largely replaced with conifers. Apart from afforestation the main landuse in the area surrounding the site is pastoral farming.
000719	Glen of the Downs SAC	This wood situated in an impressive glacial overflow channel is a good example of the Blechno-quercetum petraeae association which is characteristic of the dry valleys of the Wicklow mountains. Oak is dominant over about half the site the remainder being mostly mixed deciduous woodland. There is a range of habitats from the very dry oak dominated upper slopes to ash-hazel woodland on the valley floor and wet areas beside the stream. The juxtaposition of habitats on the valley floor is particularly valuable for invertebrates some of those found being very rare in Ireland. Of particular note is the occurrence of Mycetobia obscura known from only one other site in Britain and Ireland. The avifauna of the site is characteristic of Irish woodlands.	This site is situated in a glacial overflow channel cut in a NW-SE direction through cambrian quartzite. In the valley bottom there is a narrow band of alluvium associated with a small stream but the steep slopes are covered with a thin sandy brown-earth/brown podzolic soil which becomes progresively thinner up the slopes. This is reflected in the trees which become shorter and more stunted up the slopes. The soil is very dry over much of the site particularly so on the NE side.

Site Code	Site Name	Quality of Site	Other Site Characteristics
		This wood is the most easterly in a series of oakwoods in Co. Wicklow which extend to the Glendalough area.	
000725	Knocksink Wood SAC	A relatively small but diverse wooded valley notable for the occurrence of good examples of tufa-forming springs and associated alluvial forest. The site is also important for a number of rare plants including Erigeron acer Lamiastrum galeobdolon and Wahlenbergia hederacea and a particularly diverse woodland invertebrate fauna. Its proximity to Dublin adds to its value as an educational and amenity resource.	A wooded valley cut through calcareous glacial drift with the fast-flowing Glencullen river flowing west to east through it. Vegetation types include broadleaf deciduous woods including wet woodland near the river heath and a number of tufa-forming springs and seepage areas.
000733	Vale of Clara (Rathdrum Wood) SAC	A relatively large oak-dominated woodland and a good example of the dry acid oakwoods of eastern Ireland. Evidence indicates that the site has been wooded to varying degrees since at least the early 1700's. Despite damage from afforestation with conifers the wood is still of high quality with a wide range of age classes. The red data species Cephalanthera longifolia has been recorded. Past management practices since 1700's are well documented with continued management for conservation this site will become one of the most extensive oak woods in Ireland.	Situated in a deep steeply-sided valley through which runs the Avonmore River. Underlying rock is schist which weathers to an orange-brown sandy loam of Ph 4.1-4.9. A distinct mor humus often several centimetres thick overlies the mineral soil. Apart from the oak-dominated woods there is much mixed wood with non-native species as well as commercial conifer stands. Old river terraces are present along parts of the valley and there are occasional rock outcrops.
001398	Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC	The importance of the site lies in the presence of a number of rare plant and animal species and a rare habitat i.e. thermal mineral petrifying spring. The spring gives rise to a calcareous marsh the habitat for Vertigo angustior and Vertigo moulinsiana. This marsh is species-rich and holds a number of plant and insect species which are rare or locally uncommon in Ireland. Four Red Data Book plant species have been recorded from the site two of which Hypericum hirsutum and Viola hirta are legally protected. The woods at the eastern end of the site have some ornithological interest.	A river valley site which includes at its western end a large area of estate woodland and an artificial lake. The eastern section of the site includes a section of railway canal and aquaduct; it continues as far as leixlip town. The site is underlain by carboniferous limestone over which has been laid a layer of glacial drift.
001757	Holdenstown Bog SAC	The site supports an important though small example of transition mire vegetation. Transition mires associated with raised bogs are particularly rare in the region and this is probably the most easterly example in the country.	The site is a small wetland in a kettle hole amongst morainic deposits. It is mostly dominated by raised bog but there is some open water. Birch woodland is invading the drier areas of the bog. An area of semi-improved grassland is included for practical boundary purposes. The area surrounding site is agricultural land.

Site Code	Site Name	Quality of Site	Other Site Characteristics
		It has many of the expected plant species for the habitat including the locally rare Carex limosa. The site appears to be in a fairly natural state.	
002122	Wicklow Mountains SAC	The site comprises the largest complex of upland habitats in eastern Ireland with important examples of blanket bog wet heath and dry heath extensive in area and mostly of good quality. Alpine heath occurs at high levels along with calcareous and siliceous rocky habitats harbouring an arctic-alpine flora. A fine series of oligotrophic lakes occur and some have Salvelinus alpinus. Several oakwoods of moderate quality typical of the dry acidic woods of eastern Ireland are found. Seven Red Data Book plant species occur including the rare Alchemilla alpina and Nitella gracilis at its only Irish station. The site supports significant populations of breeding Falco columbarius and Falco peregrinus. The site is important for rare breeding passerines of oakwoods notably Phoenicurus phoenicurus and Phylloscopus sibilatrix. The site also has breeding Turdus torquatus and Lagopus lagopus. Lutra lutra occurs on several of the riverine systems.	An extensive upland site comprising much of the Wicklow Mountains and extending into Co. Dublin. The solid geology is mainly Leinster granites flanked by Ordovician schists mudstones and volcanics. The area has been glaciated and features fine examples of high corrie lakes deep valleys and moraines. Most of the site is over 300m with much ground over 600m and the highest peak of Lugnaquillia at 925m. The site includes the headwaters of several major rivers including the Liffey the Dargle and the Slaney. The substrate over much of the site is peat with poor mineral soil on the slopes and lower ground. Exposed rock and scree is a feature. The dominant habitats on the site are blanket bog heaths and upland grassland.
004186	The Murrough SPA	The site is of high importance for the good numbers and wide variety of waterfowl species that it holds in winter and on passage. The improved grassland provides feeding for Greylag Geese (Anser anser). This is one of a handful of sites around the south and east coasts at which Reed Warbler (Acrocephalus scirpaceus) has in recent years proved to be a regular breeding species. For some years in the 1980s Bearded Tit (Panurus biarmicus) bred here at its only site in Ireland emphasizing the potential of this site to hold the community of reedswamp species present in Great Britain but largely absent in Ireland. The shingle beach is a breeding site for the country's largest colony of Little Tern (Sterna albifrons) and supports 19% of the all-Ireland population.	The Murrough SPA comprises a coastal wetland complex that stretches for 13 km from Kilcoole Station east of Kilcoole village in the north to Wicklow town in the south and extends inland for up to 1 km. The site includes area of marine water to a distance of 200 m from low water mark. There is a railway on top of the beach and much agricultural reclamation of the marshes/saltmarshes.
000396	Pollardstown Fen SAC	The largest spring-fed fen in Ireland largely intact and responding well to restoration measures. Supports one of the largest stands of Cladium fen and is one of the most studied examples of its kind in Ireland.	A large spring-fed fen situated in a shallow basin composed of up to 6m of marl/peat overlying clay. The fen contains the feeder channel of the Grand Canal and has survived several attempts at drainage and reclamation.

Site Code	Site Name	Quality of Site	Other Site Characteristics
		Type locality for the Cirsio dissecti-Schoenetum nigricantis and contains a significant number of rare and threatened species. A number of internationally important invertebrates have been recorded and rare sub-aquatic invertebrates are particularly well represented. Pollardstown is the only known site in Ireland (or Europe) to support all three Annex II Vertigo species (V. geyeri V.angustior V. moulinsiana) and thus provides unique opportunity to study their different habitat and hydrological requirements. Re-flooding of reclaimed areas has increased the ornithological value of the site.	Supports extensive areas of Cladium fen Schoenus fen reed and sedge swamp Molinia grassland and species-rich seepage areas. Restoration of the central fen area following partial reclamation in 1979 has caused re-flooding and allowed the re-establishment and expansion of aquatic and reedswamp vegetation and their associated fauna.
000716	Carriggower Bog SAC	Transition mires are well represented at this site and likely to be one of the larger examples of the habitat in eastern Ireland. A range of characteristic species occur. The bryophyte flora is probably well developed (though not fully investigated). It supports a suite of invertebrate species of international importance. It also supports important wintering concentrations of Gallinago gallinago and Lymnocryptes minimus and is actually the top site in the country for Lymnocryptes minimus. The site is partly owned by State (NPW).	The site is an upland valley bog complex on the Calary plateau on the eastern side of the Wicklow Mountains. It comprises a mosaic of wet blanket bog and poor fen vegetation along with such related habitats as heath wet grassland and Betula-Salix scrub. There is no open water other than pools. The Vartry River skirts the western side of site. The bog was exploited for peat up to about 100 years ago but now old cuttings are well revegetated. An area of conifer plantation is included. Surrounding landuse is mostly semi-improved grassland and forestry.
000770	Blackstairs Mountains SAC	The importance of the site lies primarily in the extensive areas of high quality dry heath that occur. Limited peat accumulation on the site has allowed the development of this habitat. Wet heath also occurs in the areas where deeper peat has developed. Those areas that have not been afforested are largely undisturbed and relatively intact. The site is home to several scarce plant species including the Red Data Book species Ornithopus perpusillus.	The Blackstairs Mountains are situated at the southern end of the Leinster Mountain Chain. They are composed primarily of granite but also include especially on their eastern side some overlying Ordovician slates and sandstones. The range forms a roughly north-south orientated ridge some 22km long which includes six peaks over 520m. The dominant vegetation of the site is dry heath; this occurs throughout the site but predominantly on the higher sections of the range. Bare rock and scree is found in the highest and steepest sections of the site. Molinia-dominated wet heath/bog vegetation is found in very small amounts at lower levels and by streams. The valley of the Urrin River on the north-east side of the site supports some deciduous woodland and incipient bog. Much of the site is flanked by coniferous forest; this is not confined to the lowlands being found at over 640m north of Mount Leinster.

Site Code	Site Name	Quality of Site	Other Site Characteristics
002249	The Murrough Wetlands SAC	This is the most extensive series of wetland habitats on the east coast with six Annex I habitats occurring. Formerly the area of wetland was more extensive but the integrity of the site has been diminished through drainage agricultural improvement and levelling of sand hills. The railway line has influenced the development of the entire system. It is an important site for winter wildfowl and supports internationally important nos of Branta bernicla hrota as well as nationally important numbers of several species. Sterna albifrons (Annex I Birds Directive) breeds in the site. Many other Annex I species are also present. The site is also of importance for the populations of rare invertebrate and plant species that is supports.	The site comprises a series of coastal habitats and brackish to freshwater marshes stretching for about 15km. Drainage directly to the sea is impeded along most of the site by a shingle ridge along which runs a railway line. There are two main outlets to the sea and there is seepage into the marshes under the shingle ridge and where breaches occur. Freshwater drains into the site via the Vartry River and many drains. Freshwater springs provide a permanent source of water for a complex fen system. Other habitats present on the site include salt marsh tidal reed bed freshwater reedswamp wet grassland wet woodland mudflat dry heath and dry grassland. Parts of the site are farmed.
002274	Wicklow Reef SAC	This biogenic reef is well developed with sections of reef up to 0.6 m thick. It is the only documented example in Ireland making this a site of very high importance.	The site is located on the mid-east coast of Ireland and is just offshore from Wicklow Head Co. Wicklow. There are strong tidal streams in the area. The substrate is a mixture of cobbles bedrock and sand that is subject to the strong tidal streams of the east coast. The reef is a biogenic reef constructed by the polychaete Sabellaria alveolata.
004063	Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA	The site is of national importance for its population of Anser anser which is one of the largest in the country. The site provides the main roost for the birds with feeding mostly on improved grassland outside of the site. A range of other waterfowl species occur in relatively low numbers including Cygnus cygnus Anas penelope and Bucephala clangula. The reservoir attracts roosting gulls during winter most notably a large population of Larus fuscus which in Ireland is rare in winter away from the south coast.	Poulaphouca Reservoir located in the western foothills of the Wicklow Mountains was created in 1944 by damming of the River Liffey for the purpose of generating electricity from hydropower. The reservoir covers an area of approximately 20 square kilometres and is the largest inland water body in the mid-east and south-east regions. The reservoir receives water from two main sources the River Liffey at the northern end and the Kings River at the southern end. The exit is into the Liffey gorge at the western end. Underlying the reservoir are sands and gravels deposited during the last glaciation. The shores of the lake are mostly sandy. When water levels are low exposed lake muds are colonised by an ephemeral flora of annual plant species.

Site Code	Site Name	Quality of Site	Other Site Characteristics
000729	Buckroney-Brittas Dunes and Fen SAC	The site contains a range of well-developed dune types which are typical of those found in eastern Ireland. The dune systems are fairly extensive in area and generally of good quality. Of particular note are the fixed dunes the decalcified fixed dunes (Calluno-Ulicetea) the humid dune slacks the dunes with Salix repens and the shifting Marram dunes. Buckroney fen is a fine example of a diverse wetland system including alkaline fen and is one of the most important examples in eastern Ireland. The site is particularly notable for its eastern flora and fauna. In addition to five Red Data Book plant species there are a number of nationally scarce species including an abundance of Thelypteris palustris and Galium uliginosum. The invertebrate fauna is of high interest with some rare species including Machimus cowini. Sterna albifrons has bred at the site in the past.	An extensive sand dune and fen system that covers an 8 km stretch of the coastline of Co. Wicklow. The site contains three sand dune systems - Brittas Bay Buckroney and Pennycomequick. Sediment source is mainly siliceous (low shell fragment content) with maximum carbonate levels of 3.5%. The dunes have cut off the outflow of a small river at Mizen Head and a large fen has developed. Its proximity to Dublin City makes Brittas Bay a very popular recreational area. Parts of the dune systems have already been developed as caravan parks and golf course. Part of the Buckroney dune system has been acquired by National Parks and Wildlife for conservation use.
001209	Glenasmole Valley SAC	The site has important examples of petrifying springs. The physical and chemical properties of the springs have been studied. Good examples of orchid rich calcareous grassland including Pseudorchis albida (legally protected) and Orchis morio (Red Data Book species) are found. The quality of grassland is variable owing to agricultural improvement. Molinia meadows are also represented. Several other Red Data Book plant species occur along with a host of rare or scarce plant species for Co. Dublin. The botany of this site has been well studied since the 19th century. The site has Alcedo atthis and is important for bats with four Red Data Book species present (Pipistrellus pipistrellus Nyctalus leisleri Myotis daubentoni Plecotus auritus).	Glenasmole Valley lies at the northern foothills of the Dublin and Wicklow Mountains. It is a glaciated valley with drift deposits consisting of fluvioglacial sands and gravels of varying thickness and rich in Carboniferous limestone occurring on the slopes. Spring lines occur along both sides of the northern part of the valley. The River Dodder flows through the valley and within the site the river has been impounded to form two reservoirs. Associated with the reservoirs are areas of swamp and marsh vegetation. The valley is heavily wooded mostly with mixed woodland of both deciduous and coniferous species but also some native woodland. Dry calcareous pasture grassland improved to varying degrees is a main habitat of the valley sides and occurs in association with wet grassland and in places of seepage fen or marsh type vegetation.
001766	Magherabeg Dunes SAC	Despite its small size this site is important as a fine example of an intact sand dune system which shows the various developmental stages of dunes with embryonic dunes white dunes grey fixed dunes and decalcified fixed dunes all represented. A fine transition is also shown between sand dunes and drift banks the latter wooded with native deciduous species. Also present is a good example of petrifying springs on the cliff-face at Ardmore.	Situated on the south Co. Wicklow coast and extending south from Ardmore Point for up to 2 km this site comprises a mature dune system and adjacent drift banks. The Three Mile Water River flows through the site before entering the sea. Some swamp vegetation occurs behind the dunes. The drift banks are covered by deciduous woodland and dense scrub.

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		The quality of all the habitats is good. A rare hybrid sedge Carex x grossii (C. hirta x C vesicaria) has been recorded.	Bedrock and low cliffs are exposed at Ardmore Point and Ardmore Head is covered by dry grassland and scrub.
002162	River Barrow and River Nore SAC	The site supports many Annexed habitats including the priority habitats of alluvial woodland and petrifying springs. Quality of habitat is generally good. The site also supports a number of Annex II animal species - Salmo salar Margaritifera margaritifera M.m. durrovensis Alosa fallax fallax Austropotamobius pallipes Petromyzon marinus Lutra lutra Lampetra fluviatilis and L. planeri. Annex I Bird species include Anser albifrons flavirostris Falco peregrinus Cygnus cygnus Cygnus columbianus bewickii Limosa lapponica Pluvialis apricaria and Alcedo atthis. A range of rare plants and invertebrates are found in the woods along these rivers and rare plants are also associated with the saltmarsh.	This site consists of most of the freshwater stretches of the Barrow/Nore River catchments. The Barrow is tidal as far upriver as Graiguenamanagh while the Nore is tidal as far upriver as Inishtioge. The site also includes the extreme lower reaches of the River Suir and all of the estuarine component of Waterford Harbour extending to Creadan Head. The larger of the many tributaries include the Lerr Fushoge Mountain Aughavaud Owenass Boherbaun and Stradbally Rivers of the Barrow and the Delour Dinin Erkina Owveg Munster Arrigle and King's Rivers on the Nore. Both rivers rise in the Old Red Sandstone of the Slieve Bloom Mountains. They traverse limestone bedrock for a good proportion of their routes though the middle reaches of the Barrow and many of the eastern tributaries run through Leinster Granite. A wide range of habitats associated with the rivers are included within the site including substantial areas of woodland (deciduous mixed) dry heath wet grassland swamp and marsh vegetation salt marshes a small dune system biogenic reefs and intertidal sand and mud flats. Areas of improved grassland arable land and coniferous plantations are included in the site for water quality reasons.
004172	Dalkey Islands SPA	Site is of importance for both breeding and staging Sterna terns. There is a well-established colony of Sterna hirundo and smaller numbers of Sterna paradisaea. Sterna dougallii bred in 2003 and 2004 one of only three known sites in the country - this came about after several years of conservation management aimed at attracting the species. The site along with other parts of south Dublin Bay is used by the three Sterna tern species as a major post-breeding/pre-migration autumn roost area. The origin of the birds is likely to be the Co. Dublin breeding sites though numbers also suggest birds from other sites perhaps outside the state. The site also has breeding Larus marinus Tadorna tadorna and Haematopus ostralegus. The site is known to be frequented in winter by significant numbers of Arenaria interpres and Calidris maritima but recent count data is unavailable.	Site comprises Dalkey Island Lamb Island Maiden Rock the intervening rocks and reefs between Dalkey Island Lamb Island and Clare Rock and the sea area around Maiden Rock to a distance of 100 m. Dalkey Island which is the largest in the group lies ca.400m off Sorrento Point and is separated by a deep channel. The island is low-lying the highest point at c.15m is marked by a Martello Tower. Soil cover consists mainly of thin peaty layers though in a few places there are boulder clay deposits. Vegetation cover is low consisting mainly of grasses. Lamb Island lies to the north of Dalkey Island attached at low-tided by a rocky reef. It has thin soil cover and a sparse vegetation cover. Further north lies Maidens Rock a bare angular granite rock up to 5m high. There is no vegetation cover. Dalkey Island is grazed by a herd of feral goats.

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004076	Wexford Harbour and Slobs SPA	This site is of international importance for several species of waterfowl but also because it regularly supports well in excess of 20000 waterfowl. It is one of the top three sites in the country for numbers and diversity of wintering birds. Of particular importance is that it is one of the two most important sites in the world for Anser albifrons flavirostris. It also has internationally important populations of Branta bernicla hrota Cygnus columbarius bewickii and Limosa lapponica and is now one of the few sites in the country which supports a regular flock of Cygnus columbarius bewickii. There is at least a further 22 species of wintering waterfowl which occur in numbers of national importance. Several of these represent substantial proportions of the national totals especially Anas penelope (3.1%) Anas platyrhynchos (3.6%) Anas acuta (3.3%) Aythya marila (4.9%) Mergus serrator (4.1%) Pluvialis apricaria (3.7%) Pluvialis squatarola (11.3%) Vanellus vanellus (5.1%) and Limosa limosa (3.6%). Numbers of wintering birds are often swelled by hard-weather movements from Europe notably Pluvialis apricaria and Vanellus vanellus. The site is a regular location for Philomachus pugnax during passage and in winter and is regularly visited by a range of other passage waders most notably Tringa glareola Tringa erythropus and Tringa ochropus. Asio flammeus is a regular visitor in small numbers to the slobs during winter. A nesting colony of Egretta garzetta has recently become established within the site and birds are present in the area throughout the year. Passer montanus a Red Data Book species breeds. Part of the North Slob is a Nature Reserve and much of the slob is managed for the benefit of the wintering geese. Monitoring of the wintering birds of the slobs extends back to the 1960s and nowadays there is an ongoing monitoring and research programme. The North Slob has a wildfowl collection and an interpretative centre. The site supports Puccinellia fasciculata a Red Data Book species and has a good population of Lepus timidus hibernicus.	Wexford Harbour is the lowermost part of the estuary of the River Slaney a major river that drains much of the south-east region. The site is divided between the natural estuarine habitats of Wexford Harbour and the reclaimed polders known as the north and south 'slobs'. The seaward boundary extends from the Rosslare peninsula in the south to the area just west of The Raven Point in the north while the inner boundaries of the site extend to Ferraris bridge and towards Castlebridge. Shallow marine water is a principal habitat but at low tide extensive areas of intertidal flats are exposed. These vary from rippled sands in exposed areas to sandy-muds in the more sheltered areas especially at Hopeland and the inner estuary to the west of Wexford bridge. Salt marshes fringe the intertidal flats especially in the sheltered areas. The slobs are two flat areas of farmland mainly arable and pasture grassland empoldered behind 19th century sea-walls. The lands are drained by a network of channels which flow into two central channels in parts several hundred metres in width. Water from the channels is pumped into the sea with electric pumps. The channels often support swamp vegetation. Several conifer plantations are included especially on the south slob.

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002331	Mouds Bog SAC	The site comprises a raised bog that includes both areas of high bog and cutover bog. This site consists of two basins of high bog separated by a central ridge. Otherwise, the bog is flat, with slopes at its margins. An area of wet quaking bog with well-developed pools occurs either side of the central ridge. The western high bog supports a number of small flush areas along with a wet quaking soak with scattered Downy Birch (*Betula pubescens*). The margins have extensive areas of cutover, especially to the west. This is an example of a Midland Raised Bog at the eastern extremity of its current range. It supports typical species including Heather (*Calluna vulgaris*), along with Bog-rosemary (*Andromeda polifolia*) and Cranberry (*Vaccinium oxycoccos*). The central high bog supports wet flat quaking areas on both sides of the mineral ridge with frequent small pools supporting bog mosses (*Sphagnum cuspidatum*, *S. magellanicum* and *S. capillifolium*) and Great Sundew (*Drosera anglica*). Abundant Heather dominates the drier central ridge. Red Grouse, a Red Listed species and one that is becoming increasingly rare in Ireland, has been recorded on this site. Other birds noted on the site include Skylark, Meadow Pipit, Curlew and Kestrel.	The site is located about 3 km north-west of Newbridge in Co. Kildare, close to the Hill of Allen, and includes amongst others, the townlands of Grangehiggin, Barretstown and Hawkfield. Current land use on the site consists of peat-cutting, with extensive active industrial peat moss production in the western section of the remaining high bog. Domestic turf cutting is widely practised along the southern margin of the bog, in the south-west corner and in the centre of the northern edge. Apart from the western cutover margin, the high bog is not being actively drained. Mouds Bog is significant in terms of its high bog area and geographical location as it is at the eastern extreme of the range of raised bogs in Ireland. It is a site of considerable conservation significance comprising a large, raised bog, a rare habitat in the E.U. and one that is becoming increasingly scarce and under threat in Ireland.
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		Abundant Heather dominates the drier central ridge. Red Grouse, a Red Listed species and one that is becoming increasingly rare in Ireland, has been recorded on this site. Other birds noted on the site include Skylark, Meadow Pipit, Curlew and Kestrel.	
000202	Howth Head SAC	A mosaic of heathland vegetation occurs on the slopes above the sea cliffs and in the area of the summit at this site. This is dominated by Western Gorse (Ulex gallii), Heather (Calluna vulgaris), Bell Heather (Erica cinerea) and localised patches of Bracken (Pteridium aquilinum). In more open areas species such as English Stonecrop (Sedum anglicum), Wood Sage (Teucrium scorodonia) and Navelwort (Umbilicus rupestris) occur, along with some areas of bare rock. The maritime flora is of particular interest as a number of scarce and local plants have been recorded, including Golden-samphire (Inula crithmoides), Sea Wormwood (Artemisia maritima), Grass-leaved Orache (Atriplex littoralis), Frosted Orache (Atriplex laciniata), Sea Spleenwort (Asplenium marinum), Bloody Crane's-bill (Geranium sanguineum), Spring Squill (Scilla verna), Sea Stork's-bill (Erodium maritimum) and three uncommon clover species: Knotted Clover (Trifolium striatum), Bird's-foot Clover (T. ornithopodioides) and Western Clover (T. occidentalis). Rock outcrops which are important for lichens are distributed widely around Howth Head. In addition, the Earlscliffe area is of national importance for lichens and is the type locality for the black, yellow and grey lichen zonation. A number of Red Data Book plant species, the latter five of which are legally protected under the Flora (Protection) Order, 1999, have been recorded at this site - Green-winged Orchid (Orchis morio), Bird's-foot (Ornithopus perpusillus), Hairy Violet (Viola hirta), Rough Poppy (Papaver hybridum), Pennyroyal (Mentha pulegium), Heath Cudweed (Omalotheca sylvatica) and Betony (Stachys officinalis). The site is of national importance for breeding seabirds.	The site is a rocky headland situated on the northern side of Dublin Bay. The peninsula is composed of Cambrian slates and quartzites, joined to the mainland by a post-glacial raised beach. Limestone occurs on the north-west side while glacial drift is deposited against the cliffs in places. The main land use within the area is recreation, mostly walking and horse-riding, and this has led to some erosion within the site. Fires also pose a danger to the site. There may also be a threat in some areas from further housing development.

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004113	Howth Head Coast SPA	Plants such as Rock Sea-spurrey (Spergularia rupicola), Navelwort (Umbilicus rupestris), Rock Samphire (Crithmum maritimum), English Stonecrop (Sedum anglicum) and Biting Stonecrop (Sedum acre) are found at this site, along with a diversity of lichen species. A range of seabird species breed within the site, including a nationally important population of Kittiwake. The site also supports a breeding pair of Peregrine Falcon.	The site is a rocky headland situated on the northern side of Dublin Bay. The peninsula is composed of Cambrian rock of the Bray Group, the most conspicuous component being quartzite. The site comprises the sea cliffs extending from just east of the Nose of Howth to the tip of the Bailey Lighthouse peninsula. The marine area to a distance of 500 m from the cliff base is included within the site. The site is of high ornithological importance as it supports a nationally important population of Kittiwake. It is also a traditional nesting site for Peregrine Falcon, a species that is listed on Annex I of the E.U. Birds Directive. The site is easily accessible and has important amenity and educational value due to its proximity to Dublin City.
001387	Ballynafagh Lake SAC	Ballynafagh Lake is a shallow alkaline lake with patches of emergent vegetation in the middle, as well as around the shore. Submerged plants include starworts (Callitriche spp.) and Lesser Bladderwort (Utricularia minor), with Common Duckweed (Lemna minor) and the liverwort Riccocarpus natans occurring on the surface. Alkaline fen vegetation occurs at the lake edge, including a plant community dominated by Blunt-flowered Rush (Juncus subnodulosus) and Black Bog-rush (Schoenus nigricans), and with frequent sedges (e.g. Carex lepidocarpa and C. rostrata). Other species in this area include Marsh-marigold (Caltha palustris), Marsh Lousewort (Pedicularis palustris), Marsh Arrowgrass (Triglochin palustris), Water Mint (Mentha aquatica) and Bulrush (Typha latifolia). Extensive stands of Common Reed (Phragmites australis), Bulrush and Bottle Sedge (Carex rostrata) occur around the open water. A stand of Great Fen-sedge (Cladium mariscus) occurs in the western corner. The lake is surrounded by acid grassland, heath and bog. Here the vegetation includes Common Bent (Agrostis capillaris), Purple Moor-grass (Molinia caerulea), Bog-myrtle (Myrica gale), Bracken (Pteridium aquilinum), Gorse (Ulex europaeus) and Heather (Calluna vulgaris). Wet woodland of birch (Betula spp.), willow (Salix spp.) and Alder (Alnus glutinosa) occurs in the north-west corner of the lake.	The site is located approximately 2 km north-west of Prosperous in Co. Kildare. It is a shallow alkaline lake with some emergent vegetation. The Blackwood Feeder, which connects Ballynafagh Lake to the Grand Canal, is also included in the site. The Blackwood Feeder connects Ballynafagh Lake to the Grand Canal and is of particular conservation significance for the populations of two rare snail species, Vertigo moulinsiana and Pisidium pseudosphaerium, that it supports. The main land use at the site is fishing in the lake. There is a 'No Shooting Area' Order on the site. Although originally a reservoir, Ballynafagh Lake has developed a very natural vegetation with some interesting plant communities, including alkaline fen, a habitat that is listed on Annex I of the E.U. Habitats Directive. The site supports a high diversity of molluscan species, with some rare species recorded.

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		A wide diversity of insects is also found at the site, including the Marsh Fritillary butterfly, a species listed on Annex II of the E.U. Habitats Directive.	
000391	Ballynafagh Bog SAC	In the wet, active area towards the centre of the site, a system of tear pools occurs, grown over with bog mosses (S. capillifolium and S. magellanicum). There is a small pool-and-hummock system, with pools colonised by another species of bog moss, S. cuspidatum. White Beak-sedge, Cottongrasses (Eriophorum spp.) and the insectivorous Great Sundew (Drosera anglica) are abundant in wet channels. Bog-rosemary (Andromeda polifolia) and Cranberry (Vaccinium oxycoccos) are found on the hummocks. The vegetation of the degraded raised bog tends to be dominated by Heather (Calluna vulgaris), Deergrass, Bog Asphodel, Cross-leaved Heath (Erica tetralix) and Hare's-tail Cottongrass (Eriophorum vaginatum). In places there is some colonisation by low bushes of Downy Birch (Betula pubescens) and Gorse (Ulex europaeus). The site is within the territory of a breeding pair of Merlin, a species listed on Annex I of the E.U. Birds Directive. Several pairs of Curlew and Snipe breed on the bog. Scrub species such as Stonechat, Redpoll and Long-tailed Tit occur on the cut-away.	This site is a raised bog situated about 1 km west of Prosperous in Co. Kildare. The area is directly underlain by muddy, fossiliferous limestones, interbedded with calcareous shales. The subsoils are predominantly clay-rich tills. All are of low permeability. The site comprises a relatively small core of uncut high bog (approx. 70 ha), which is surrounded by a more extensive area of cutover bog (approx. 90 ha). The high bog area can be divided into a wet core of active bog which covers an area of 23 ha, surrounded by approximately 44 ha of degraded raised bog which is experiencing drying-out at present. The bog has been damaged by afforestation, mechanised peat-cutting and drainage. These three activities pose the main threats to the survival of raised bogs. In addition, a significant proportion of the bog surface was badly damaged by fire in the mid-1990s. The site is of conservation importance as it contains examples of the Annex 1 habitats active raised bog, degraded raised bog and Rhynchosporion vegetation.
000199	Baldoyle Bay SAC	Areas of saltmarsh occur near Portmarnock Bridge and at Portmarnock Point, with narrow strips along other parts of the estuary. Species such as glassworts (Salicornia spp.), Sea-purslane (Halimione portulacoides), Sea Plantain (Plantago maritima) and Sea Rush (Juncus maritimus) are found here. Two plant species, legally protected under the Flora (Protection) Order, 1999, occur in the Mayne marsh, Borrer's Saltmarsh-grass (Puccinellia fasciculata) and Meadow Barley (Hordeum secalinum). Internationally important numbers of Pale-bellied Brent Goose and nationally important numbers of two Annex I Birds Directive species - Golden Pover and Bar-tailed Godwit - have been recorded. Four other species also reached nationally important numbers: Shelduck, Pintail, Grey Plover and Ringed Plover.	The site extends from just below Portmarnock village to the west pier at Howth in Co. Dublin. It is a tidal estuarine bay protected from the open sea by a large sand-dune system. Two small rivers, the Mayne and the Sluice, flow into the bay. Large areas of intertidal flats are exposed at low tide at this site. These are mostly sands but grade to muds in the inner sheltered parts of the estuary. A number of dune hills are still intact at Portmarnock Point, and there are small dune hills east of Cush Point. These are mostly dominated by Marram (Ammophila arenaria), though Lyme-grass (Leymus arenarius) is also found. The area surrounding the site is densely populated, thus the main threats to the site include visitor pressure, disturbance to wildfowl and dumping. In particular, the dumping of spoil onto the foreshore presents a threat to the value of the site.

Site Code	Site Name	Quality of Site	Other Site Characteristics
004016	Baldoyle Bay SPA	Large areas of intertidal flats are exposed at low tide at this site. These are mostly sands but grade to muds in the inner sheltered parts of the estuary. Extensive areas of Common Cord-grass (Spartina anglica) occur in the inner estuary. Both the Narrow-leaved Eelgrass (Zostera angustifolia) and the Dwarf Eelgrass (Z. noltii) are also found here. During summer, the sandflats of the sheltered areas are covered by mats of green algae (Ulva spp.). The site is an important site for wintering waterfowl, providing good quality feeding areas and roost sites for an excellent diversity of waterfowl species. It supports an internationally important population of Light-bellied Brent Goose, and has a further five species with nationally important populations: Shelduck, Ringed Plover, Golden Plover, Grey Plover and Bar-tailed Godwit. Other species which occur include Great Crested Grebe, Pintail, Teal, Mallard, Common Scoter, Oystercatcher, Lapwing, Knot, Dunlin, Black-tailed Godwit, Curlew, Redshank, Greenshank and Turnstone. Regular breeding birds include Shelduck, Mallard and Ringed Plover. In autumn, passage migrants such as Curlew Sandpiper, Spotted Redshank and Green Sandpiper are regular in small numbers. Little Egret, a species which has recently colonised Ireland, also occurs at this site.	The site is located to the north and east of Baldoyle and to the south of Portmarnock, Co. Dublin, and is a relatively small, narrow estuary separated from the open sea by a large sand dune system. Two small rivers, the Mayne River and the Sluice River, flow into the inner part of the estuary. The site is of high conservation importance, for supporting internationally important numbers of waterfowl. The inner part of the site is a Statutory Nature Reserve and also designated as a wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention.
000700	Cahore Polders and Dunes SAC	The site has a well-developed dune system typical of the east coast. The dunes display a good zonation with fixed dunes grading eastwards to marram dominated dunes embryo dunes and at the top of the beach annual driftline vegetation. The northern part of system is subject to erosion from the sea while active growth is seen in the southern parts. The dunes support two Red Data book plant species Asparagus officinalis subsp. prostratus and the hybrid Equisetum x moorei which is confined to the coastline of Wexford and Wicklow. Drainage ditches in the polders support Ceratophyllum submersum a rare and only relatively recently recorded species in Ireland. The site is of high ornithological importance having nationally important wintering populations of Anser albifrons flavirostris Pluvialis apricaria Anas penelope Anas clypeata and Vanellus vanellus.	The site is located just south of Cahore Point on the north Wexford coast. The area is underlain by rocks of Cambrian age. The site comprises a sand dune system that extends along the coast for over 4 km and which reaches up to 18 m in height. The dunes are backed by extensive areas of polder grassland interspersed by canals and drainage channels. The drainage canals and sluices were installed in the mid-19th century to reclaim wetlands and land that flooded regularly behind the dunes. Seawater may occasionally enter the channels and create brackish conditions. Polder grasslands are included in the site and are valuable for wintering waterfowl.

Site Code	Site Name	Quality of Site	Other Site Characteristics
		It also supports other species in smaller numbers including Cygnus cygnus and Cygnus columbarius bewickii. Sterna albifrons formerly bred on the beach. Pyronia tithonus occurs near the northern extreme of its Irish range.	
004143	Cahore Marshes SPA	The site of high ornithological importance for wintering waterfowl with nationally important populations of Anser albifrons flavirostris Anas penelope Pluvialis apricaria and Vanellus vanellus. The geese use the site as a feeding area commuting each day from Wexford Harbour. The Pluvialis apricaria population is over 3% of the all-Ireland total. The site also supports other species in smaller numbers including Cygnus columbarius bewickii and Cygnus cygnus. Sterna albifrons formerly bred on the beach but not in the recent past.	Cahore Marshes SPA is located just south of Cahore Point on the north Co. Wexford coast. It comprises an area of polder grassland and some arable land interspersed by canals and drainage channels. The drainage canals and sluices were installed in the mid-19th century to reclaim wetlands and land that flooded regularly behind the sand dunes. Seawater may occasionally enter the channels and create brackish conditions. The area is underlain by rocks of Cambrian age.
004117	Ireland's Eye SPA	The site hosts important populations of breeding seabirds, including: Fulmar, Gannet, Cormorant, Shag, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Herring Gull, Kittiwake, Guillemot and Razorbill and Puffin. The Cormorant, Herring Gull, Kittiwake, Guillemot and Razorbill populations are of national importance. The Gannet colony is of particular note as it is one of six in the country and one of only two sites on the east coast. Several pairs each of Shelduck, Oystercatcher and Ringed Plover breed. The site is also a traditional site for Peregrine, a species that is listed on Annex I of the E.U.	The site is an uninhabited island located c. 1.5 km north of Howth in Co. Dublin. The site encompasses Ireland’s Eye, Rowan Rocks, Thulla, Thulla Rocks, Carrageen Bay and a seaward extension of 200m in the west and 500m to the north and east. The island has an area of c. 24 ha above the high tide mark. The underlying geology is Cambrian greywackes and quartzites. The site, though a relatively small island, is of high ornithological importance, with five seabird species having populations of national importance. The regular presence of a breeding pair of Peregrine, an Annex I species, is also of note.
004076	Wexford Harbour and Slobs SPA	This site is of international importance for several species of waterfowl but also because it regularly supports well in excess of 20000 waterfowl. It is one of the top three sites in the country for numbers and diversity of wintering birds. Of particular importance is that it is one of the two most important sites in the world for Anser albifrons flavirostris. It also has internationally important populations of Branta bernicla hrota Cygnus columbarius bewickii and Limosa lapponica and is now one of the few sites in the country which supports a regular flock of Cygnus columbarius bewickii.	Wexford Harbour is the lowermost part of the estuary of the River Slaney a major river that drains much of the south-east region. The site is divided between the natural estuarine habitats of Wexford Harbour and the reclaimed polders known as the north and south 'slobs'. The seaward boundary extends from the Rosslare peninsula in the south to the area just west of The Raven Point in the north while the inner boundaries of the site extend to Ferraris bridge and towards Castlebridge. Shallow marine water is a principal habitat but at low tide extensive areas of intertidal flats are exposed.

Site Code	Site Name	Quality of Site	Other Site Characteristics
		There are at least a further 22 species of wintering waterfowl which occur in numbers of national importance. Several of these represent substantial proportions of the national totals especially Anas penelope (3.1%) Anas platyrhynchos (3.6%) Anas acuta (3.3%) Aythya marila (4.9%) Mergus serrator (4.1%) Pluvialis apricaria (3.7%) Pluvialis squatarola (11.3%) Vanellus vanellus (5.1%) and Limosa limosa (3.6%). Numbers of wintering birds are often swelled by hard-weather movements from Europe notably Pluvialis apricaria and Vanellus vanellus. The site is a regular location for Philomachus pugnax during passage and in winter and is regularly visited by a range of other passage waders most notably Tringa glareola Tringa erythropus and Tringa ochropus. Asio flammeus is a regular visitor in small numbers to the slobs during winter. A nesting colony of Egretta garzetta has recently become established within the site and birds are present in the area throughout the year. Passer montanus a Red Data Book species breeds. Part of the North Slob is a Nature Reserve and much of the slob is managed for the benefit of the wintering geese. Monitoring of the wintering birds of the slobs extends back to the 1960s and nowadays there is an ongoing monitoring and research programme. The North Slob has a wildfowl collection and an interpretative centre. The site supports Puccinellia fasciculata a Red Data Book species and has a good population of Lepus timidus hibernicus.	These vary from rippled sands in exposed areas to sandy-muds in the more sheltered areas especially at Hopeland and the inner estuary to the west of Wexford bridge. Salt marshes fringe the intertidal flats especially in the sheltered areas. The slobs are two flat areas of farmland mainly arable and pasture grassland empoldered behind 19th century sea-walls. The lands are drained by a network of channels which flow into two central channels in parts several hundred metres in width. Water from the channels is pumped into the sea with electric pumps. The channels often support swamp vegetation. Several conifer plantations are included especially on the south slob.
002193	Ireland's Eye SAC	The cliff maritime flora includes Rock Sea-spurrey (Spergularia rupicola), Sea Stork's-bill (Erodium maritimum), Rock Samphire (Crithmum martimum), Golden Samphire (Inula crithmoides), Rock Sea-lavender (Limonium binervosum), Meadow Rue (Thalictrum minor), Portland Spurge (Euphorbia portlandica) and Tree-mallow (Lavatera arborea). A small area of shingle vegetation occurs above the sandy beach at Carrigeen Bay on the western side of the site. Species such as Curled Dock (Rumex crispus), Silverweed (Potentilla anserina) and Spear-leaved Orache (Atriplex prostrata) occur. The rare Sea-kale (Crambe maritima), has been recorded at this site. Sea-kale is listed as threatened in the Irish Red Data Book.	The site is located c. 1.5 km north of Howth in Co. Dublin. It is a Cambrian island with quartzite which forms spectacular cliffs on the north-east side. Elsewhere much of the area is covered by drift. This uninhabited marine island has a well-developed maritime flora, with two habitats (sea cliffs and shingle) listed on Annex II of the E.U. Habitats Directive, and nationally important seabird colonies. Owing to its easy access and proximity to Dublin it has great educational and amenity value.

Site Code	Site Name	Quality of Site	Other Site Characteristics
		Also occurring on the sandy/ shingle beach is the Red Data Book species Henbane (Hyoscyamus niger). The site is of national importance for breeding seabirds.	
004237	Seas off Wexford SPA	The site extends offshore along the majority of the county Wexford coastline and is approximately 3,054 km2 in area. The site is ecologically connected to four breeding seabird SPAs, namely Lady's Island Lake SPA, Wexford Harbour and Slobs SPA, Keeragh Islands SPA and Saltee Islands SPA. The breeding seabird species listed for the SPAs which abut the Seas off Wexford SPA are: Little Tern, Roseate, Common Tern, Arctic Tern, Sandwich Tern, Black-headed Gull, Mediterranean Gull, Cormorant, Fulmar, Gannet, Shag, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Herring Gull, Kittiwake, Guillemot, Razorbill and Puffin.	The marine waters off the coast of Counties Wicklow and Wexford mark the boundary between the Irish and Celtic Seas. These waters constitute a valuable feeding resource for the seabirds that return every spring to Wicklow and Wexford's coastal and island colonies to breed. Outside of the summer months these relatively shallow coastal waters provide safe feeding and roosting opportunities for a range of marine birds overwintering here or on passage.
002256	Ballyprior Grassland SAC	The site contains old grassland habitat of high quality and the is important due to the loss of similar habitat in surrounding areas. The site has an exceptionally rich myco-flora (fungi) which is a good indication of grassland quality (in terms of continuity, lack of disturbance and low nutrient status). In the grassland there is abundant cover of grasses and herbs with a high species diversity, but low bryophyte cover. Quaking-grass (Briza media) is an abundant species, reflecting the calcareous conditions, in association with abundant Sheep's-fescue (Festuca ovina), Sweet Vernal-grass (Anthoxanthun odoratum), Crested Dog's-tail (Cynosurus cristatus) and Common Bent (Agrostis capillaris). Other species present include Heath-grass (Danthonia decumbens), the sedges Carex caryophyllea, C. flacca and C. pulicaris, and Field Wood-rush (Luzula campestris). The presence in certain places of species such as Carnation Sedge (Carex panicea), Devil's-bit Scabious (Succisa pratensis), Tormentil (Potentilla erecta) and Heath Bedstraw (Galium saxatile) indicates variation in conditions with paucity of minerals, and adds to the species diversity. The Irish Hare (Lepus timidus hibernicus) occurs in the site. This endemic sub-species is listed in the Red Data Book and is legally protected under the Wildlife Act, 1976.	The site is located c. 4 km south of the village of Stradbally in Co. Laois, at the north end of the Castlecomer Plateau on largely limestone bedrock. The soils of the area are generally thin and well drained, varying from a deeper sandy loam in lower places (10-20 cm depth), to thin or stony soil over local drift (5-10 cm depth) on the elevated plateau. The site was traditionally managed as a commonage for grazing of cattle and horses. Recent damage has occurred to parts of the site and some damaged habitat has been excluded. Semi-improved grassland has developed from enrichment and fertilising in the west of the site, with persistent Common Sorrel (Rumex acetosa) in places. South of the site, recent afforestation has resulted in loss of contiguous grassland habitat. The site is an important example of orchid-rich calcareous grassland, a habitat listed on Annex I of the E.U. Habitats Directive. The site contains a diverse flora and an exceptionally rich myco-flora. This site is also important in the context of the loss of most other similar species rich grasslands in the area to agricultural improvement.

Site Code	Site Name	Quality of Site	Other Site Characteristics
002953	Blackwater Bank SAC	This site exhibits typical species diversity for offshore sandbanks in this region.	N/A
000205	Malahide Estuary SAC	The outer part of the site is mostly cut off from the sea by a large sand spit. The outer estuary drains almost completely at low tide, exposing sand and mud flats. There is a large bed of Eelgrass (Dwarf Eelgrass, Zostera noltii, and Narrow-leaved Eelgrass, Z. angustifolia) in the north section of the outer estuary, along with Beaked Tasselweed (Ruppia maritima) and extensive mats of green algae (Enteromorpha spp., Ulva lactuca). Common Cordgrass (Spartina anglica) is also widespread in this sheltered part of the estuary. The dune spit has a well-developed outer dune ridge dominated by Marram Grass (Ammophila arenaria). The dry areas of the stabilised dunes have a dense covering of Burnet Rose (Rosa pimpinellifolia), Red Fescue (Festuca rubra) and species such as Yellow-wort (Blackstonia perfoliata), Autumn Gentian (Gentianella amarella), Hound's-tongue (Cynoglossum officinale), Carline Thistle (Carlina vulgaris) and Pyramidal Orchid (Anacamptis pyramidalis). Below the salt marshes there are good examples of pioneering glasswort (Salicornia spp.) swards and other annual species, typified by S. dolichostachya and Annual Sea-blite (Suaeda maritima).	The site is situated immediately north of Malahide and east of Swords in Co. Dublin. It is the estuary of the River Broadmeadow. The site is divided by a railway viaduct which was built in the 1800s. Much of the interior of the spit is taken up by a golf course. The site includes a fine area of rocky shore south-east of Malahide and extending towards Portmarnock. This represents the only continuous section through the fossiliferous Lower Carboniferous rocks in the Dublin Basin and is the type locality for several species of fossil coral. The estuary is an important wintering bird site and holds an internationally important population of Brent Goose and nationally important populations of a further 15 species. The estuary also attracts migrant species such as Ruff, Curlew Sandpiper, Spotted Redshank and Little Stint. Breeding birds of the site include Ringed Plover, Shelduck and Mallard. The inner part of the estuary is heavily used for water sports. This site is a fine example of an estuarine system with all the main habitats represented. The site is important ornithologically, with a population of Brent Goose of international significance.
004025	Malahide Estuary SPA	This site is of high importance for wintering waterfowl and supports a particularly good diversity of species. It has internationally important populations of Light-bellied Brent Goose and Black-tailed Godwit. Furthermore, the site supports nationally important populations of an additional 12 species: Great Crested Grebe, Shelduck, Pintail, Goldeneye, Red-breasted Merganser, Oystercatcher, Golden Plover, Grey Plover, Knot, Dunlin, Bar-tailed Godwit and Redshank. The high numbers of diving ducks reflect the lagoon-type nature of the inner estuary, and this is one of the few sites in eastern Ireland where substantial numbers of Goldeneye can be found. The site also attracts other migrant wader species such as Ruff, Curlew Sandpiper, Spotted Redshank and Little Stint. These occur mainly in autumn, though occasionally in spring and winter.	The site is situated in north Co. Dublin, between the towns of Malahide and Swords. The site encompasses the estuary, saltmarsh habitats and shallow subtidal areas at the mouth of the estuary. A railway viaduct, built in the 1800s, crosses the site and has led to the inner estuary becoming lagoonal in character and only partly tidal. The site is a fine example of an estuarine system, providing both feeding and roosting areas for a range of wintering waterfowl. The lagoonal nature of the inner estuary is of particular value as it increases the diversity of birds which occur. The site is of high conservation importance, with internationally important populations of Light-bellied Brent Goose and Black-tailed Godwit, and nationally important populations of a further 12 species.

Site Code	Site Name	Quality of Site	Other Site Characteristics
		Breeding birds of the site include Ringed Plover, Shelduck and Mallard. Grey Herons breed nearby and feed regularly within the site.	Two of the species which occur regularly (Golden Plover and Bar-tailed Godwit) are listed on Annex I of the E.U. Birds Directive. Malahide Estuary (also known as Broadmeadow Estuary) is a Ramsar Convention site.
001741	Kilmuckridge-Tinnaberna Sandhills SAC	An interesting and little disturbed example of an east of Ireland shoreline. Some of the dunes support an excellent example of fixed or grey dune vegetation including a very rich cryptogam flora. An Equisetum sp. hybrid is common along the clay cliffs it does not occur elsewhere in Ireland outside Wexford and Wicklow. One parent E. ramosissimum is not found in the British Isles. The Red Data Book species Mathiola sinuata used to grow here.	A 4km long coastal site on the south-east coast overlooking the Irish Sea. The coast consists of eroding cliffs of glacial clay in the south and sand dunes in the north. Shingle and sandy beaches form the eastern site boundary. A stream bordered by Salix scrub crosses the north end of the site. Some small derelict fields lie along the top of the cliffs. The area is quite isolated with few access roads.

Appendix 1 - Table 2 Background data for European sites considered in the assessment; including the Qualifying features (Qualifying Interests or Special Conservation Interests) and the known threats and pressures as recorded by the National Parks and Wildlife Services

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Feature	Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
000206	North Dublin Bay SAC	Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310], Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae) [1330], Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) [1410], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation - grey dunes [2130], Petalwort (Petalophyllum ralfsii) [1395], Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria - white dunes [2120], Humid dune slacks [2190], Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210], Embryonic shifting dunes [2110]	H01.09, I01, E03, G02.01, H01.03, G01.02, E01, J01.01, A04, E02, K03.06, G05.05, F02.03, F02.03.01, G01.01	Diffuse pollution to surface waters due to other sources not listed, Invasive non-native species, Discharges, Golf course, Other point source pollution to surface water, Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, Urbanised areas, human habitation, Burning down, Grazing, Industrial or commercial areas, Antagonism with domestic animals, Intensive maintenance of public parcs or cleaning of beaches, Leisure fishing, Bait digging or collection, Nautical sports
000210	South Dublin Bay SAC	Embryonic shifting dunes [2110], Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210]	J02.01.02, F02.03.01, E01, D01.02, E02, K02, E03, G01.01.02, K02.02, G01.02, M01, D01.01, G01.01, H03	Reclamation of land from sea, estuary or marsh, Bait digging or collection, Urbanised areas, human habitation, Roads, motorways, Industrial or commercial areas, Biocenotic evolution, succession, Discharges, Non-motorized nautical sports, Accumulation of organic material, Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, Changes in abiotic conditions, Paths, tracks, cycling tracks, Nautical sports, Marine water pollution
000396	Pollardstown Fen SAC	Narrow-mouthed whorl snail (Vertigo angustior) [1014], Calcareous fens with Cladium mariscus and species of the Caricion davallianae [7210], Geyer`s whorl snail (Vertigo geyeri) [1013], Desmoulin`s whorl snail (Vertigo moulinsiana) [1016], Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220], Alkaline fens [7230]	C01.01, F03.01, A04, J01, F02.03, E01.03, B, D02.01, E03.01	Sand and gravel extraction, Hunting, Grazing, Fire and fire suppression, Leisure fishing, Dispersed habitation, Sylviculture, forestry, Electricity and phone lines, Disposal of household or recreational facility waste
000397	Red Bog, Kildare SAC	Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140]	F03.01, E01.03, A04, C01.01, F02.03, A08	Hunting, Dispersed habitation, Grazing, Sand and gravel extraction, Leisure fishing, Fertilisation

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Feature	Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
000713	Ballyman Glen SAC	Alkaline fens [7230], Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220]	D01.02, H01.03, C01.01, A04, E01.02, E01.01, E03.01, A08, A01, B01, H02.01, A10.01	Roads, motorways, Other point source pollution to surface water, Sand and gravel extraction, Grazing, Discontinuous urbanisation, Continuous urbanisation, Disposal of household or recreational facility waste, Fertilisation, Cultivation, Forest planting on open ground, Groundwater pollution by leakages from contaminated sites, Removal of hedges and copses or scrub
000714	Bray Head SAC	European dry heaths [4030], Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic Coasts [1230]	G01.03, A04.02.01, A10.01, E01, G05.04, J01.01, K02.01, K01.01, D01.01	Motorised vehicles, Non intensive cattle grazing, Removal of hedges and copses or scrub, Urbanised areas, human habitation, Vandalism, Burning down, Species composition change (succession), Erosion, Paths, tracks, cycling tracks
000716	Carriggower Bog SAC	Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140]	A04.02.03, E01.03, K02.01, J02.01, J02.08, A08, B01, A04.03	Non intensive horse grazing, Dispersed habitation, Species composition change (succession), Landfill, land reclamation and drying out, general, Raising the groundwater table or artificial recharge of goundwater, Fertilisation, Forest planting on open ground, Abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing
000717	Deputy's Pass Nature Reserve SAC	Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0]	A04, G02.06, I01, B06, E03.01, B, B02.01.01, G01.02, G05.04	Grazing, Attraction park, Invasive non-native species, Grazing in forests or woodland, Disposal of household or recreational facility waste, Sylviculture, forestry, Forest replanting (native trees), Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, Vandalism
000719	Glen of the Downs SAC	Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0]	G05.06, G02.06, A04, G05.04, G02.01, G01.02, D01.02, I01, G05.07, J01.01	Tree surgery, felling for public safety, removal of roadside trees, Attraction park, Grazing, Vandalism, Golf course, Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, Roads, motorways, Invasive non-native species, Missing or wrongly directed conservation measures, Burning down

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Feature	Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
000725	Knocksink Wood SAC	Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0], Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220], Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0]	E03.01, I01, B01.02, D05, G05.07, G03, E01.02, G02.08, B01, B02.03, G05.06, A04, D01.01, D01.02, G05.04, G01.02	Disposal of household or recreational facility waste, Invasive non-native species, Artificial planting on open ground (non-native trees), Improved access to site, Missing or wrongly directed conservation measures, Interpretative centres, Discontinuous urbanisation, Camping and caravans, Forest planting on open ground, Removal of forest undergrowth, Tree surgery, felling for public safety, removal of roadside trees, Grazing, Paths, tracks, cycling tracks, Roads, motorways, Vandalism, Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles
000729	Buckroney-Brittas Dunes and Fen SAC	Embryonic shifting dunes [2110], Humid dune slacks [2190], Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) [1410], Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210], Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria - white dunes [2120], Alkaline fens [7230], Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation - grey dunes [2130], Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (Calluno-Ulicetea) [2150], Dunes with Salix repens ssp. argentea (Salicion arenariae) [2170], Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220]	D04.01, K01.01, A05.02, A08, G05.04, K02.01, G05.01, E01.02, J01, G02.01, I01, A04.02, G02.08, G01.02, A04.01.01, A03.02, J02, A10.01, F03.01, H02.07, E03.01	Airport, Erosion, Stock feeding, Fertilisation, Vandalism, Species composition change (succession), Trampling, overuse, Discontinuous urbanisation, Fire and fire suppression, Golf course, Invasive non-native species, Non intensive grazing, Camping and caravans, Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, Intensive cattle grazing, Non intensive mowing, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Removal of hedges and copses or scrub, Hunting, Diffuse groundwater pollution due to non-sewered population, Disposal of household or recreational facility waste
000733	Vale of Clara (Rathdrum Wood) SAC	Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0]	E01.03, B02.01.01, F05.04, F04.02, F03.01.01, B04, I01, G01.02, F03.02	Dispersed habitation, Forest replanting (native trees), Poaching, Collection (fungi, lichen, berries etc.), Damage caused by game (excess population density), Use of biocides, hormones and chemicals (forestry), Invasive non-native species, Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, Taking and removal of animals (terrestrial)
000770	Blackstairs Mountains SAC	Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix [4010], European dry heaths [4030]	G01.03.02, K02.01, E03, A04.01.02, A04.02, G01.02, K01.01, J01.01, B02	Off-road motorized driving, Species composition change (succession), Discharges, Intensive sheep grazing, Non intensive grazing, Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, Erosion, Burning down, Forest and Plantation management & use

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Feature	Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
000781	Slaney River Valley SAC	Twaite shad (Alosa fallax) [1103], Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0], Atlantic salmon (Salmo salar) [1106], Brook lamprey (Lampetra planeri) [1096], Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation [3260], Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0], Freshwater pearl mussel (Margaritifera margaritifera) [1029], Harbour seal (Phoca vitulina) [1365], Sea lamprey (Petromyzon marinus) [1095], River lamprey (Lampetra fluviatilis) [1099], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Estuaries [1130], Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae) [1330], Otter (Lutra lutra) [1355], Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) [1410]	A01, J02.11, B02, I01, D03.01.03, J02.12.02, H01.05, K01.01, J02, D01.05, H01, E05, E03, A08, F03.02.04, J02.06, A09, F01.03, C01.01, D01.01, A10.01, J02.05.02, F02.03.01, H01.08, H01.01, J02.06.01	Cultivation, Siltation rate changes, dumping, depositing of dredged deposits, Forest and Plantation management & use, Invasive non-native species, Fishing harbours, Dykes and flooding defense in inland water systems, Diffuse pollution to surface waters due to agricultural and forestry activities, Erosion, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Bridge, viaduct, Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), Storage of materials, Discharges, Fertilisation, Predator control, Water abstractions from surface waters, Irrigation, Bottom culture, Sand and gravel extraction , Paths, tracks, cycling tracks, Removal of hedges and copses or scrub, Modifying structures of inland water courses, Bait digging or collection, Diffuse pollution to surface waters due to household sewage and waste waters, Pollution to surface waters by industrial plants, Surface water abstractions for agriculture
001209	Glenasmole Valley SAC	Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220], Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae) [6410], Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) * important orchid sites [6210]	A03.03, B01.02, B02.01.02, D01.03, B01.01, H01.05, A04.02.01, H01.08, A04, I01, C01.03, A04.02.02, B02.02, E01.02, A03, A08, H02.07, J02, F02.03, D01, A04.02.03	Abandonment or lack of mowing , Artificial planting on open ground (non-native trees), Forest replanting (non native trees), Car parcs and parking areas, Forest planting on open ground (native trees), Diffuse pollution to surface waters due to agricultural and forestry activities, Non intensive cattle grazing, Diffuse pollution to surface waters due to household sewage and waste waters, Grazing, Invasive non-native species, Peat extraction, Non intensive sheep grazing, Forestry clearance, Discontinuous urbanisation, Mowing or cutting of grassland, Fertilisation, Diffuse groundwater pollution due to non-sewered population, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Leisure fishing, Roads, paths and railroads, Non intensive horse grazing

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Feature	Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
001398	Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC	Desmoulin`s whorl snail (Vertigo moulinsiana) [1016], Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220], Narrow-mouthed whorl snail (Vertigo angustior) [1014]	A04, E01.01, A08, J02.05.02, E01.03, D01.02, A10.01, B	Grazing, Continuous urbanisation, Fertilisation, Modifying structures of inland water courses, Dispersed habitation, Roads, motorways, Removal of hedges and copses or scrub, Sylviculture, forestry
001742	Kilpatrick Sandhills SAC	Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria - white dunes [2120], Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (Calluno-Ulicetea) [2150], Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210], Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation - grey dunes [2130], Embryonic shifting dunes [2110]	I02, K02.01, K01.01, X, J01.01, J02.12.01, E03.01, G01.03.02, G01	Problematic native species, Species composition change (succession), Erosion, No threats or pressures, Burning down, Sea defense or coast protection works, tidal barrages, Disposal of household or recreational facility waste, Off-road motorized driving, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities
001757	Holdenstown Bog SAC	Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140]	J02, D02.01.01, J02.01.03, X, B01, A01, A04	Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Suspended electricity and phone lines, Infilling of ditches, dykes, ponds, pools, marshes or pits, No threats or pressures, Forest planting on open ground, Cultivation, Grazing
001766	Magherabeg Dunes SAC	Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation - grey dunes [2130], Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria - white dunes [2120], Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210], Embryonic shifting dunes [2110], Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220]	A04.02, G01.02, G05.04, H01.04, K02.01, A04.03, G05.07, H01.01, K01.01	Non intensive grazing, Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, Vandalism, Diffuse pollution to surface waters via storm overflows or urban run-off, Species composition change (succession), Abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing, Missing or wrongly directed conservation measures, Pollution to surface waters by industrial plants, Erosion

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Feature	Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
002122	Wicklow Mountains SAC	Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220], Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (Androsacetalia alpinae and Galeopsietalia ladani) [8110], Species-rich Nardus grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas - and submountain areas in Continental Europe [6230], Calaminarian grasslands of the Violetalia calaminariae [6130], Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix [4010], Blanket bogs * if active bog [7130], Otter (Lutra lutra) [1355], Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [3160], European dry heaths [4030], Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (Littorelletalia uniflorae) [3110], Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060], Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0], Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8210]	G02.09, G04.01, C01.03, F03.02.02, B06, E01, G01.02, L05, K01.01, D01.01, A05.02, G05.07, K04.05, G01.03.02, B02.05, I01, G05.06, E03.01, J01.01, G05.01, G05.04, G01, A04, G01.04, G05.09, F04.02, F03	Wildlife watching, Military manoeuvres, Peat extraction, Taking from nest (e.g. falcons), Grazing in forests or woodland, Urbanised areas, human habitation, Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, Collapse of terrain, landslide, Erosion, Paths, tracks, cycling tracks, Stock feeding, Missing or wrongly directed conservation measures, Damage by herbivores (including game species), Off-road motorized driving, Non- intensive timber production (leaving dead wood or old trees untouched), Invasive non-native species, Tree surgery, felling for public safety, removal of roadside trees, Disposal of household or recreational facility waste, Burning down, Trampling, overuse, Vandalism, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Grazing, Mountaineering, rock climbing, speleology, Fences, fencing, Collection (fungi, lichen, berries etc.), Hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial)
002162	River Barrow and River Nore SAC	Freshwater pearl mussel (Margaritifera margaritifera) [1029], Desmoulin`s whorl snail (Vertigo moulinsiana) [1016], Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0], Atlantic salmon (Salmo salar) [1106], White-clawed crayfish (Austropotamobius pallipes) [1092], Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels [6430], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Otter (Lutra lutra) [1355], Killarney fern (Trichomanes speciosum) [1421], European dry heaths [4030], Brook lamprey (Lampetra planeri) [1096], Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) [1410], River lamprey (Lampetra fluviatilis) [1099], Twaite shad (Alosa fallax) [1103], Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0], Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion)	J02.12.02, J03.02.01, J02.05.02, F02.01.02, B02.01.01, E02, C01.03, A04.01.01, J02.02.01, D03.01, F02.03, B02, A10.01, F02, H01, B07, A02.01, C01.01.01, J02.06, J02, I01, K01.01, F01.01, B05, M01	Dykes and flooding defense in inland water systems, Reduction in migration or migration barriers, Modifying structures of inland water courses, Netting, Forest replanting (native trees), Industrial or commercial areas, Peat extraction, Intensive cattle grazing, Dredging or removal of limnic sediments, Port areas, Leisure fishing, Forest and Plantation management & use, Removal of hedges and copses or scrub, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), Forestry activities not referred to above, Agricultural intensification, Sand and gravel quarries, Water abstractions from surface waters, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Invasive non-native species, Erosion, Intensive fish farming, intensification , Use of fertilizers (forestry), Changes in abiotic conditions

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Feature	Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
		[7220], Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae) [1330], Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310], Sea lamprey (Petromyzon marinus) [1095], Nore Pearl Mussel (Margaritifera durrovensis) [1990], Estuaries [1130], Reefs [1170], Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation [3260]		
002249	The Murrough Wetlands SAC	Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) [1410], Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210], Calcareous fens with Cladium mariscus and species of the Caricion davallianae [7210], Alkaline fens [7230], Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220], Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae) [1330]	C01.01, K01.01, A08, D01.01, G01.02, A04, J02.12.01, J02.05.01, B, E03.02, D01.04	Sand and gravel extraction, Erosion, Fertilisation, Paths, tracks, cycling tracks, Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, Grazing, Sea defense or coast protection works, tidal barrages, Modification of water flow (tidal & marine currents), Sylviculture, forestry, Disposal of industrial waste, Railway lines, TGV
002274	Wicklow Reef SAC	Reefs [1170]	F02.03, F02.02.01, F05.02, J02.11.01, G01.07, F02.02.05, F02.01.01, F02.01.02	Leisure fishing, Benthic or demersal trawling, Date mussel-fishing, Dumping, depositing of dredged deposits, Scuba diving, snorkelling, Benthic dredging, Potting, Netting
003000	Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC	Harbour porpoise (Phocoena phocoena) [1351], Reefs [1170]	D03.02, F02.02, J02.02, E03, D02, X, H06.01, J02.11	Shipping lanes, Professional active fishing, Removal of sediments (mud...), Discharges, Utility and service lines, No threats or pressures, Noise nuisance, noise pollution, Siltation rate changes, dumping, depositing of dredged deposits
004006	North Bull Island SPA	Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Oystercatcher (Haematopus ostralegus) [A130], Grey Plover (Pluvialis squatarola) [A141], Black-tailed Godwit (Limosa limosa) [A156], Pintail (Anas acuta) [A054], Turnstone (Arenaria interpres) [A169], Dunlin (Calidris alpina) [A149], Shelduck (Tadorna tadorna) [A048], Light-bellied Brent Goose (Branta bernicla hrota) [A046], Knot (Calidris canutus) [A143], Bar-tailed Godwit (Limosa lapponica)	E01.04, D01.02, G03, E03, G02.01, E02, D01.05, F02.03.01, G01.01, E01.01, G01.02, D03.02	Other patterns of habitation, Roads, motorways, Interpretative centres, Discharges, Golf course, Industrial or commercial areas, Bridge, viaduct, Bait digging or collection, Nautical sports, Continuous urbanisation, Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, Shipping lanes

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Feature	Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
		[A157], Sanderling (Calidris alba) [A144], Curlew (Numenius arquata) [A160], Teal (Anas crecca) [A052], Black-headed Gull (Chroicocephalus ridibundus) [A179], Redshank (Tringa totanus) [A162], Golden Plover (Pluvialis apricaria) [A140], Shoveler (Anas clypeata) [A056]		
004024	South Dublin Bay and Tolka Estuary SPA	Knot (Calidris canutus) [A143], Ringed Plover (Charadrius hiaticula) [A137], Redshank (Tringa totanus) [A162], Arctic tern (Sterna paradisaea) [A194], Common tern (Sterna hirundo) [A193], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Roseate Tern (Sterna dougallii) [A192], Oystercatcher (Haematopus ostralegus) [A130], Dunlin (Calidris alpina) [A149], Grey Plover (Pluvialis squatarola) [A141], Light-bellied Brent Goose (Branta bernicla hrota) [A046], Sanderling (Calidris alba) [A144], Black-headed Gull (Chroicocephalus ridibundus) [A179], Bar-tailed Godwit (Limosa lapponica) [A157]	D01.02, G01.01, G01.02, J02.01.02, E03, E01, F02.03, E02, K02.03, F02.03.01	Roads, motorways, Nautical sports, Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, Reclamation of land from sea, estuary or marsh, Discharges, Urbanised areas, human habitation, Leisure fishing, Industrial or commercial areas, Eutrophication (natural), Bait digging or collection
004040	Wicklow Mountains SPA	Peregrine falcon (Falco peregrinus) [A103], Merlin (Falco columbarius) [A098]	G01.02, A04, C01.03, G03, B, D01.01	Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, Grazing, Peat extraction, Interpretative centres, Sylviculture, forestry, Paths, tracks, cycling tracks
004063	Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA	Greylag Goose (Anser anser) [A043], Lesser Black-backed Gull (Larus fuscus) [A183]	F02.03, D01.05, B01, G01.01, F03.01	Leisure fishing, Bridge, viaduct, Forest planting on open ground, Nautical sports, Hunting
004127	Wicklow Head SPA	Black-legged kittiwake (Rissa tridactyla) [A188]	G01.02	Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles
004172	Dalkey Islands SPA	Roseate tern (Sterna dougallii) [A192], Common tern (Sterna hirundo) [A193], Arctic tern (Sterna paradisaea) [A194]	G01.01, G01.02, A04, E01	Nautical sports, Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, Grazing, Urbanised areas, human habitation

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Feature	Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
004186	The Murrough SPA	Wigeon (Anas penelope) [A050], Red-throated Diver (Gavia stellata) [A001], Herring Gull (Larus argentatus) [A184], Teal (Anas crecca) [A052], Black-headed Gull (Chroicocephalus ridibundus) [A179], Light-bellied Brent Goose (Branta bernicla hrota) [A046], Little Tern (Sterna albifrons) [A195], Greylag Goose (Anser anser) [A043], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	D01.04, G01.02, A08	Railway lines, TGV, Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, Fertilisation
004076	Wexford Harbour and Slobs SPA	Light-bellied Brent Goose (Branta bernicla hrota) [A046], Golden Plover (Pluvialis apricaria) [A140], Teal (Anas crecca) [A052], Black-tailed Godwit (Limosa limosa) [A156], Coot (Fulica atra) [A125], Greenland White-fronted Goose (Anser albifrons flavirostris) [A395], Grey Plover (Pluvialis squatarola) [A141], Wigeon (Anas penelope) [A050], Sanderling (Calidris alba) [A144], Little Grebe (Tachybaptus ruficollis) [A004], Mallard (Anas platyrhynchos) [A053], Black-headed Gull (Chroicocephalus ridibundus) [A179], Lapwing (Vanellus vanellus) [A142], Pintail (Anas acuta) [A054], Great Crested Grebe (Podiceps cristatus) [A005], Lesser Black-backed Gull (Larus fuscus) [A183], Little Tern (Sterna albifrons) [A195], Knot (Calidris canutus) [A143], Bewick's Swan (Cygnus columbianus bewickii) [A037], Curlew (Numenius arquata) [A160], Red-breasted Merganser (Mergus serrator) [A069], Dunlin (Calidris alpina) [A149], Shelduck (Tadorna tadorna) [A048], Goldeneye (Bucephala clangula) [A067], Grey Heron (Ardea cinerea) [A028], Redshank (Tringa totanus) [A162], Bar-tailed Godwit (Limosa lapponica) [A157], Whooper Swan (Cygnus cygnus) [A038], Cormorant (Phalacrocorax carbo) [A017], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Scaup (Aythya marila) [A062], Hen Harrier (Circus cyaneus) [A082], Oystercatcher (Haematopus ostralegus) [A130]	A01, A04, J02.12, D01.02, A08, F03.01, E01, F01, G03, B, G01.02, J02.01.01	Cultivation, Grazing, Dykes, embankments, artificial beaches, general, Roads, motorways, Fertilisation, Hunting, Urbanised areas, human habitation, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Interpretative centres, Sylviculture, forestry, Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, Polderisation

Appendix 1 - Table 3 Known threats and pressures related to the qualifying interests from each Special Area of Conservation as per article 17 reporting from the National Parks and Wildlife Services

Qualifying Interests	EU Code	Current threats to Qualifying Interests	Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests
Geyer's Whorl Snail (Vertigo geyeri)	[1013]	Loss of riverside and canalside habitat; exploitation of esker sites and drainage of wetlands, and sheep grazing and overexploitation of dune sites.	Changes to ground vegetation condition, groundwater dependent and is highly sensitive to hydrological changes.
Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail (Vertigo angustior)	[1014]	Loss of riverside and canalside habitat; exploitation of esker sites and drainage of wetlands, and sheep grazing and overexploitation of dune sites.	Changes to ground vegetation condition, groundwater dependent and is highly sensitive to hydrological changes.
Desmoulin's Whorl Snail (Vertigo moulinsiana)	[1016]	Loss of riverside and canalside habitat; exploitation of esker sites and drainage of wetlands, and sheep grazing and overexploitation of dune sites.	Changes to ground vegetation condition, groundwater dependent and is highly sensitive to hydrological changes.
Freshwater Pearl Mussel (Margaritifera margaritifera)	[1029]	In stream works, hydrological and morphological alterations, sediment and enrichment, pollution due urbanisation etc. Poor substrate quality due to increased growth of algal and macrophyte vegetation as a result of severe nutrient enrichment, as well as physical siltation.	Surface water dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological change. Very highly sensitive to pollution.
White-clawed Crayfish (Austropotamobius pallipes)	[1092]	Poor substrate quality due to increased growth of algal and macrophyte vegetation as a result of severe nutrient enrichment, as well as physical siltation.	Invasive species, disease, surface water dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological change. Very highly sensitive to pollution.
Sea Lamprey (Petromyzon marinus)	[1095]	Barriers to upstream migration (e.g., weirs), which limit access to spawning beds and juvenile habitat are main threats to this species.	Marine water dependent. Low sensitivity to hydrological changes. Coastal development, trampling from recreational activity.
Brook Lamprey (Lampetra planeri)	[1096]	Channel maintenance, barriers, passage obstruction, gross pollution and specific pollutants.	Surface water dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological change. Availability of suitable spawning ground is a considerable issue for the species.
River Lamprey (Lampetra fluviatilis)	[1099]	Channel maintenance, barriers, passage obstruction, gross pollution and specific pollutants.	Surface water dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological change. Availability of suitable spawning ground is a considerable issue for the species.

Qualifying Interests	EU Code	Current threats to Qualifying Interests	Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests
Twaite Shad (Alosa fallax fallax)	[1103]	Habitat quality, particularly at spawning sites is the most notable threat to this species.	Changes in management. Changes in nutrient or base status. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change.
Salmon (Salmo salar)	[1106]	Marine survival rates are of concern for the populations.	Disease, parasites and barriers to movement.
Estuaries	[1130]	Pollution, fishing /aquaculture and habitat quality.	Inappropriate development, changes in turbidity
Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide	[1140]	Aquaculture, fishing, bait digging, removal of fauna, reclamation of land, coastal protection works and invasive species, particularly cord-grass; hard coastal defence structures; sea-level rise.	Surface and marine water dependent. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Moderate sensitivity to pollution. Changes to salinity and tidal regime. Coastal development.
Reefs	[1170]	Professional fishing; taking for fauna; taking for flora; water pollution; climate change; and change in species composition.	Sensitive to disturbance and pollution.
Annual vegetation of drift lines	[1210]	Grazing; sand and gravel extraction; recreational activities; coastal protection works.	Overgrazing and erosion. Changes in management.
Perennial vegetation of stony banks	[1220]	Disruption of the sediment supply, owing to the interruption of the coastal processes, caused by developments such as car parks and coastal defence structures including rock armour and sea walls. The removal of gravel.	Marine water dependent. Low sensitivity to hydrological changes. Coastal development, trampling from recreational activity and gravel removal.
Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts	[1230]	A number of significant pressures were identified, including trampling by walkers, invasive non-native species, gravel extraction, and sea-level and wave exposure changes due to climate change. There have been no significant losses in sea cliff habitat since the Directive came into force.	Land use activities such as tourism and/or agricultural practices. Direct alteration to the habitat or effects such as burning or drainage.
Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand	[1310]	Invasive Species; erosion and accretion.	Marine water dependent. Medium sensitivity to hydrological change. Changes in salinity and tidal regime. Infilling, reclamation, invasive species.
Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae)	[1330]	Overgrazing; erosion; invasive species, particularly common cordgrass (Spartina anglica); infilling and reclamation.	Marine and groundwater dependent. Medium sensitivity to hydrological change. Changes in salinity and tidal regime. Overgrazing, erosion and accretion.

Qualifying Interests	EU Code	Current threats to Qualifying Interests	Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests
Harbour Porpoise (Phocoena phocoena)	[1351]	Pressures acting on the species in Irish waters mainly involve commercial vessel-based activities such as impacts arising from geophysical seismic exploration or from local/regional prey removal from fisheries.	Sensitive to disturbance, prey availability and pollution.
Otter (Lutra lutra)	[1355]	Decrease in water quality: Use of pesticides; fertilization; vegetation removal; professional fishing (including lobster pots and fyke nets); hunting; poisoning; sand and gravel extraction; mechanical removal of peat; urbanised areas; human habitation; continuous urbanization; drainage; management of aquatic and bank vegetation for drainage purposes; and canalization or modifying structures of inland water course.	Surface and marine water dependent. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Sensitivity to pollution.
Harbour Seal (Phoca vitulina)	[1365]	Distance to human activities, accidental entanglement in fishing gear competition for prey resources, illegal killing, pollution and habitat degradation.	Prey availability, reduction in available habitat and water quality.
Petalwort (Petalophyllum ralfsii)	[1395]	There are no significant impacts affecting this species.	None identified.
Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi)	[1410]	Over-grazing by cattle or sheep; infilling and reclamation.	Marine and groundwater dependent. Medium sensitivity to hydrological change. Changes in salinity and tidal regime. Coastal development and reclamation.
Killarney Fern (Trichomanes speciosum)	[1421]	Threatened by habitat loss, deliberate collection, encroachment of invasive or vigorous species, or indirectly by water pollution, removal of woodland or alteration of watercourses.	Land use management and direct impacts.
River Nore Freshwater Pearl Mussel (Margaritifera durrovensis)	[1990]	In stream works, hydrological and morphological alterations, sediment and enrichment, pollution due urbanisation etc. Poor substrate quality due to increased growth of algal and macrophyte vegetation as a result of severe nutrient enrichment, as well as physical siltation.	Surface water dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological change. Very highly sensitive to pollution.

Qualifying Interests	EU Code	Current threats to Qualifying Interests	Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests
Embryonic shifting dunes	[2110]	Natural erosion processes exacerbated by recreation and sand extraction. Coastal protection interfering with natural processes.	Overgrazing, and erosion. Changes in management.
Shifting dunes along the shoreline with white dunes (Ammophila arenaria)	[2120]	Recreation and coastal defences, which may interfere with local sediment dynamics.	Overgrazing, and erosion. Changes in management.
Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes)	[2130]	Recreation; overgrazing and inappropriate grazing: non-native plant species, particularly sea buckthorn (Hippophae rhamnoides).	Overgrazing, and erosion. Changes in management.
Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (Calluno-Ulicetea)	[2150]	Land abandonment, recreational activity, and bracken encroachment.	Overgrazing, and erosion. Changes in management.
Dunes with willow scrub (Salix repens ssp. argentea and Salicion arenariae)	[2170]	Agricultural improvement; overgrazing and inappropriate grazing; forestry; recreational activity.	Overgrazing, and erosion. Changes in management.
Humid dune slacks	[2190]	Agricultural improvement; overgrazing and inappropriate grazing; forestry; recreational activity.	Overgrazing, and erosion. Changes in management. Sensitive to hydrological change.
Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (Littorelletalia uniflorae)	[3110]	Nutrient enrichment; afforestation; wastewater; invasive alien species; sport and leisure activities.	Surface and groundwater dependant. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution.
Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds	[3160]	Nutrient alterations; management shifts in the associated peatland habitat, afforestation; wastewater; invasive alien species; sport and leisure activities.	Surface and groundwater dependant. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution
Water courses of plain to montane levels with vegetation (Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion)	[3260]	Hydrological and morphological changes, water quality, enrichment, and surface water discharges from industrial site and/or agriculture.	Surface water dependent Highly sensitive to hydrological change and direct physical interactions.
Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix	[4010]	Reclamation, afforestation and burning; overstocking; invasion by non-heath species; exposure of peat to severe erosion.	Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Inappropriate management.
European dry heaths	[4030]	Afforestation, overburning, over-grazing, under-grazing and bracken invasion.	Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Changes in management. Changes in nutrient status.

Qualifying Interests	EU Code	Current threats to Qualifying Interests	Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests
Alpine and Boreal heaths	[4060]	Abandonment; overgrazing; burning; outdoor recreation; quarries; communication networks; and wind farm developments.	Changes in management. Changes in nutrient or base status. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change.
Calaminarian grasslands of the Murawy galmanowa (Violetalia calaminariae)	[6130]	Land reclamation, afforestation; drainage; and infrastructural development.	Changes in management such as grazing regime. Changes in nutrient or base status. Changes to vegetation composition. Introduction of alien species.
Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia)* important orchid sites	[6210]	Land reclamation, afforestation; drainage; and infrastructural development.	Changes in management such as grazing regime. Changes in nutrient or base status. Changes to vegetation composition. Introduction of alien species.
Species-rich Nardus grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe)	[6230]	Bracken encroachment, succession, inappropriate grazing, afforestation; drainage; and infrastructural development.	Changes in management such as grazing regime. Changes in nutrient or base status. Changes to vegetation composition. Introduction of alien species.
Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae)	[6410]	Agricultural intensification; drainage; abandonment of pastoral systems.	Changes in management such as grazing regime. Changes in nutrient or base status. Changes to vegetation composition. Introduction of alien species.
Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels	[6430]	Agricultural intensification; drainage; abandonment of pastoral systems.	Changes in management such as grazing regime. Changes in nutrient or base status. Changes to vegetation composition. Introduction of alien species.
Blanket bogs (* if active bog)	[7130]	Land reclamation, peat extraction; afforestation; erosion and landslides triggered by human activity; drainage; burning and infrastructural development.	Surface water interactions. Drainage and land use management are the key things.
Transition mires and quaking bogs	[7140]	Drainage; burning; peat extraction; overgrazing; afforestation; erosion; and climate change.	Surface water interactions. Groundwater isolated system with sensitivities related to the bog basin. Drainage and land use management are the key things.

Qualifying Interests	EU Code	Current threats to Qualifying Interests	Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests
Calcareous fens with species of mariscus sedge and bog cotton (Cladium mariscus and Caricion davallianae)	[7210]	Hydrological changes, pollution to surface waters, urbanisation, roads development, groundwater interactions, grazing and cultivation practices and the inappropriate use of pesticides.	Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Inappropriate management.
Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion)	[7220]	Ground water interactions, on site management activities.	Surface and groundwater dependant. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution.
Alkaline fens	[7230]	Land reclamation, peat extraction; afforestation; erosion and landslides triggered by human activity; drainage; burning and infrastructural development.	Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Inappropriate management.
Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (Androsacetalia alpinae and Galeopsietalia ladani)	[8110]	Overgrazing, undergrazing and succession were recorded as medium-importance pressures in this reporting period, and Structure and functions were again assessed as Inadequate, the trend is considered to be stable rather than improving. This change is due to improved knowledge and the habitat is considered to have been stable since before the last assessment.	Erosion, overgrazing and recreation.
Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation	[8210]	Overgrazing; extractive industries; recreational activities and improved access.	Erosion, overgrazing and recreation.
Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation	[8220]	Pressures associated with the non-native invasive species New Zealand willowherb (Epilobium brunnescens).	Erosion, overgrazing and recreation.
Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles	[91A0]	The introduction of alien species; sub-optimal grazing patterns; general forestry management; increases in urbanisation and human habitation adjacent to oak woodlands; and the construction of communication networks through the woodland.	Changes in management. Changes in nutrient or base status. Introduction of alien species.

Appendix 1 - Table 4 Known threats and pressures related to the qualifying interests from each Special Protection Areas (Reporting from the National Parks and Wildlife Services)

Species Code	Common Name	Scientific Name	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
A001	Red-Throated Loon	Gavia stellata	A04, C01, C03, F02, G01, H03, I01, J02, J02.06, K03, M02	Grazing, Mining and quarrying, Renewable abiotic energy use, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Invasive non-native species, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Water abstractions from surface waters, Interspecific faunal relations, Changes in biotic conditions
A004	Little Grebe	Tachybaptus ruficollis ruficollis	Xxp/Xxt	No threats and pressures identified by the NPWS
A005	Great Crested Grebe	Podiceps cristatus	Xxp/Xxt	No threats and pressures identified by the NPWS
A017	Cormorant	Phalacrocorax carbo carbo	D01	Wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure
A028	Grey Heron	Ardea cinerea cinerea	H01, Xxp/Xxt	Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), No threats and pressures identified by the NPWS
A037	Bewick's Swan	Cygnus columbianus bewickii	A02, B01, C03, D02, G01, H07, M02	Modification of cultivation practices, Forest planting on open ground, Renewable abiotic energy use, Utility and service lines, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Other forms of pollution, Changes in biotic conditions
A038	Whooper Swan	Cygnus cygnus	A02, A11, C03, D02, G01, H07	Modification of cultivation practices, Agriculture activities not referred to above, Renewable abiotic energy use, Utility and service lines, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Other forms of pollution
A043	Greylag Goose	Anser anser	A02, A11, C03, D02, F03, G01, H07	Modification of cultivation practices, Agriculture activities not referred to above, Renewable abiotic energy use, Utility and service lines, Hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Other forms of pollution

Species Code	Common Name	Scientific Name	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
A046	Light-Bellied Brent Goose	Branta bernicla hrota	A02, A11, C03, D02, F01, G01, G05, H03, H07, I01, J03	Modification of cultivation practices, Agriculture activities not referred to above, Renewable abiotic energy use, Utility and service lines, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Other Human intrusions and disturbances , Marine water pollution, Other forms of pollution, Invasive non-native species, Other Ecosystem Modifications
A048	Common Shelduck	Tadorna tadorna	F01, F02, G01, H03, M01	Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Changes in abiotic conditions
A050	Eurasian Wigeon	Anas penelope	C03, F01, F03, G01, H01, H03, H07, I01, J02, J03	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), Marine water pollution, Other forms of pollution, Invasive non-native species, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Other Ecosystem Modifications
A052	Teal	Anas crecca	Xxp/Xxt	No threats and pressures identified by the NPWS
A053	Mallard	Anas platyrhynchos	Xxp/Xxt	No threats and pressures identified by the NPWS
A054	Northern Pintail	Anas acuta	C03, F01, F03, G01, H01, H03, H07, J02	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), Marine water pollution, Other forms of pollution, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions

Species Code	Common Name	Scientific Name	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
A056	Northern Shoveler	Anas clypeata	C03, F03, G01, H01, H03, H07	Renewable abiotic energy use, Hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), Marine water pollution, Other forms of pollution
A062	Greater Scaup	Aythya marila	C03, F01, F02, F03, G01, H01, H03	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), Marine water pollution
A067	Common Goldeneye	Bucephala clangula	C03, F01, F03, G01, H01, H03, H07, M02	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), Marine water pollution, Other forms of pollution, Changes in biotic conditions
A069	Red-Breasted Merganser	Mergus serrator	C03, F01, F02, G01, H03	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution
A082	Hen Harrier	Circus cyaneus	A02, B01, B02, C01, C03, F03, G01, I01, J01, J03	Modification of cultivation practices, Forest planting on open ground, Forest and Plantation management & use, Mining and quarrying, Renewable abiotic energy use, Hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Invasive non-native species, Fire and Fire suppression, Other Ecosystem Modifications
A098	Merlin	Falco columbarius	A02, B01, B02, C03, M02	Modification of cultivation practices, Forest planting on open ground, Forest and Plantation management & use, Renewable abiotic energy use, Changes in biotic conditions

Species Code	Common Name	Scientific Name	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
A103	Peregrine Falcon	Falco peregrinus peregrinus	C03, F03, J03, M02	Renewable abiotic energy use, Hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), Other Ecosystem Modifications, Changes in biotic conditions
A125	Eurasian Coot	Fulica atra atra	C03, G01, H01	Renewable abiotic energy use, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish)
A130	Eurasian Oystercatcher	Haematopus ostralegus	C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions
A137	Common Ringed Plover	Charadrius hiaticula	C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02, J03, M01	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Other Ecosystem Modifications, Changes in abiotic conditions
A140	European Golden Plover	Pluvialis apricaria	A02, A04, B01, C01, C03, F01, G01, H03, J01, K03, M02	Modification of cultivation practices, Grazing, Forest planting on open ground, Mining and quarrying, Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Fire and Fire suppression, Interspecific faunal relations, Changes in biotic conditions
A141	Grey Plover	Pluvialis squatarola	C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02, J03, M01	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Other Ecosystem Modifications, Changes in abiotic conditions

Species Code	Common Name	Scientific Name	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
A142	Northern Lapwing	Vanellus vanellus	A02, C03, F01, G01, H03	Modification of cultivation practices, Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution
A143	Red Knot	Calidris canutus	C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02, J03, M01	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Other Ecosystem Modifications, Changes in abiotic conditions
A144	Sanderling	Calidris alba	C03, F01, G01, H03, M01	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Changes in abiotic conditions
A149	Dunlin	Calidris alpina	C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02, J03, M01	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Other Ecosystem Modifications, Changes in abiotic conditions
A156	Black-Tailed Godwit	Limosa limosa islandica	A02, C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02, J03	Modification of cultivation practices, Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Other Ecosystem Modifications
A157	Bar-Tailed Godwit	Limosa lapponica	C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02, J03, M01	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Other Ecosystem Modifications, Changes in abiotic conditions

Species Code	Common Name	Scientific Name	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
A160	Eurasian Curlew	Numenius arquata arquata	C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02, J03	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Other Ecosystem Modifications
A162	Common Redhank	Tringa totanus	C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02, J03, M01	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Other Ecosystem Modifications, Changes in abiotic conditions
A169	Ruddy Turnstone	Arenaria interpres	C03, F01, G01, H03, J03, M01	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Other Ecosystem Modifications, Changes in abiotic conditions
A179	Black-Headed Gull	Larus ridibundus	A04, C03, F02, H03, J03, M01	Grazing, Renewable abiotic energy use, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Marine water pollution, Other Ecosystem Modifications, Changes in abiotic conditions
A183	Lesser Black-Backed Gull	Larus fuscus graellsii	C03, F02, H03, J03	Renewable abiotic energy use, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Marine water pollution, Other Ecosystem Modifications
A184	European Herring Gull	Larus argentatus	C03, F02, H03, J03	Renewable abiotic energy use, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Marine water pollution, Other Ecosystem Modifications
A188	Black-Legged Kittiwake	Rissa tridactyla	C03, F02, H03	Renewable abiotic energy use, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Marine water pollution
A192	Roseate Tern	Sterna dougallii dougallii	C03, D01, G01, I01	Renewable abiotic energy use, Roads, paths and railroads, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Invasive non-native species

Species Code	Common Name	Scientific Name	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
A193	Common Tern	Sterna hirundo	C03, D01, D03, G01, I01	Renewable abiotic energy use, Roads, paths and railroads, Shipping lanes, ports, marine constructions, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Invasive non-native species
A194	Arctic Tern	Sterna paradisaea	C03, D01, G01, I01, M01	Renewable abiotic energy use, Roads, paths and railroads, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Invasive non-native species, Changes in abiotic conditions
A195	Little Tern	Sterna albifrons albifrons	C03, D01, I01, I02, M01	Renewable abiotic energy use, Roads, paths and railroads, Invasive non-native species, Problematic native species, Changes in abiotic conditions
A395	Greater White-Fronted Goose	Anser albifrons flavirostris	A02, A04, A06, A11, B01, C03, D02, D05, F01, F03, G01, H03, H07, K03, M01, M02	Modification of cultivation practices, Grazing, Annual and perennial non-timber crops, Agriculture activities not referred to above, Forest planting on open ground, Renewable abiotic energy use, Utility and service lines, Improved access to site, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Other forms of pollution, Interspecific faunal relations, Changes in abiotic conditions, Changes in biotic conditions

FEHILY TIMONEY

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APPENDIX 2

AA Screening for Amendments to the Draft LABAP

Overview

The following tables present the amendments made to the Actions of the Draft Wicklow County Council Local Authority Biodiversity Action Plan 2026-2031 made over the Plan-making process. Additions to the Draft Plan have been denoted in blue, with removals represented in ~~blue strikethrough~~. These amendments have been subject to further AA Screening.

Table 1: AA Screening of Draft Plan Amendments – Objectives

Objective Ref. (Final Plan)	Draft Plan Objective	Summary of Amendment	Potential Sources of Impact
Objective 1	Embed Biodiversity in Local Authority Planning and Practice	Embed Biodiversity in Local Authority Planning, Management and Practice	The amendment has added clarity to the Local Authority's role and remit in the implementation of biodiversity measures. It does not change the scope of the original Draft Plan objective. There will be no negative impact or subsequent environmental effects from this amendment. The amendment will not result in likely significant effects on any European site.
Objective 2	Protect and Enhance Biodiversity through Community-Led and Local Action	Protect and Enhance Biodiversity through Science-based, Community-Led ~~and~~ Local Action	The amendment has introduced a clause to integrate science-based measures into any community-led action or initiatives. The amendment strengthens the Draft Plan objective by ensuring conservation measures are best in the scientific method and best practice. There will be no negative impact or subsequent environmental effects from this amendment. The amendment will not result in likely significant effects on any European site.

Table 2: SEA Screening of Draft Plan Amendments – Actions

Draft Plan Action Code	Draft Plan Action	Summary of Amendment	Potential Sources of Impact
N/A	N/A	3. Ensure that any relevant actions with this plan, or results of these actions, receive commensurate policy provision in future iterations of the County Development Plan for Wicklow.	The amendment has introduced a new Action, which proposes that any relevant actions will receive commensurate policy provision in the future iterations in the land-use planning framework for County Wicklow, which is subject to its own SEA and AA processes. The action ultimately supports the integration of biodiversity considerations and improvements within the development planning process, and will contribute to the realisation of positive effects on receiving biodiversity within the Plan Area. The amendment will not introduce a source of negative impact that can generate any adverse effects on the receiving environment. The amendment will not result in likely significant effects on any European site.
3.	Use maps to showcase work undertaken by WCC and partners, and to highlight areas where ecological connectivity could be further enhanced.	~~3.~~ 4. Use maps to showcase work undertaken by WCC and partners, and to highlight areas where ecological connectivity could be further enhanced.	The amendment has changed the number reference of the Draft Plan Action. There will be no impact or subsequent environmental effects from this amendment. The amendment will not result in likely significant effects on any European site.

Draft Plan Action Code	Draft Plan Action	Summary of Amendment	Potential Sources of Impact
4.	Review existing policies, including the WCC Glyphosate Policy and Tree Policy, and update where necessary.	~~4.~~ 5. Review existing policies, including the WCC Glyphosate Policy and Tree Policy, and update where necessary.	The amendment has changed the number reference of the Draft Plan Action. There will be no impact or subsequent environmental effects from this amendment. The amendment will not result in likely significant effects on any European site.
5.	Support relevant WCC sections by providing advice and guidance on minimising negative impacts on biodiversity and identifying opportunities for biodiversity enhancement in Council works.	~~5.~~ 6. Support relevant WCC sections by providing advice and guidance on minimising negative impacts on biodiversity and identifying opportunities for biodiversity enhancement in Council works.	The amendment has changed the number reference of the Draft Plan Action. There will be no impact or subsequent environmental effects from this amendment. The amendment will not result in likely significant effects on any European site.
6.	Provide biodiversity training for all WCC staff, and for external contractors through tender process where feasible, to ensure compliance with statutory obligations and the application of best practices.	~~6.~~ 7. Provide biodiversity training for all WCC staff, and for external contractors through tender process where feasible, to ensure compliance with statutory obligations and the application of best practices.	The amendment has changed the number reference of the Draft Plan Action. There will be no impact or subsequent environmental effects from this amendment. The amendment will not result in likely significant effects on any European site.
7.	Assess and plan for future national and EU biodiversity policy obligations by identifying suitable areas for restoration and biodiversity enhancement on WCC lands, ensuring readiness for the implementation of emerging frameworks.	~~7.~~ 8. ~~Assess and~~ ~~p~~Plan for future national and EU biodiversity policy obligations by identifying suitable areas for restoration and biodiversity enhancement on WCC lands, and by ensuring readiness for the implementation of ~~emerging frameworks~~ National Nature Restoration Plan (NNRP).	The amendment has changed the number reference of the Draft Plan Action and made an additional change pertaining to the implementation of a specific Framework. The National Nature Restoration Plan (NNRP) is designed to meet the targets of the EU Nature Restoration Regulations and will contain a plan on restoring degraded ecosystems, particularly those with the most potential to capture and store carbon for preventing and reducing the impacts of natural disasters from climate change.

Draft Plan Action Code	Draft Plan Action	Summary of Amendment	Potential Sources of Impact
			The refocusing of the Draft Plan Action to align with the aims and targets of the NNRP will have additional positive impacts on climate, material assets and population and human health, furthermore to the identified positive effects on biodiversity, flora and fauna and the soils and water environments. The amendment will not introduce a source of negative impact that can result in adverse effects on the receiving environment. The amendment will not result in likely significant effects on any European site.
8.	WCC to become a partner to the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2026 and support the implementation of actions across all sectors.	~~8.~~ 9. WCC to become a partner to the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2026 and support the implementation of actions across all sectors.	The amendment has changed the number reference of the Draft Plan Action. There will be no impact or subsequent environmental effects from this amendment. The amendment will not result in likely significant effects on any European site.
9.	Monitor and respond to the development of national policies with implications for biodiversity, including those relating to commercial forestry, renewable energy, and other land-use sectors.	~~9.~~ 10. Monitor and respond to the development of national policies with implications for biodiversity, including those relating to commercial forestry, renewable energy, and other land-use sectors.	The amendment has changed the number reference of the Draft Plan Action. There will be no impact or subsequent environmental effects from this amendment. The amendment will not result in likely significant effects on any European site.

Draft Plan Action Code	Draft Plan Action	Summary of Amendment	Potential Sources of Impact
10.	Support the integration of ecological expertise and best practice into statutory planning and development processes by providing accessible guidance, capacity building, and specialist input to assist relevant departments in making biodiversity-informed decisions.	~~10.~~ 11. Support the integration of ecological expertise and best practice into statutory planning and development processes by providing accessible guidance, capacity building, and specialist input to assist relevant departments in making biodiversity-informed decisions.	The amendment has changed the number reference of the Draft Plan Action. There will be no impact or subsequent environmental effects from this amendment. The amendment will not result in likely significant effects on any European site.
11.	Ensure adequate resources for ecological input into planning and policy processes, including internal ecological reporting, independent review of statutory assessments (EIA, SEA, AA), and promote the use of stand-alone Ecological Impact Assessments (EcIAs), where appropriate.	~~11.~~ 12. Ensure adequate resources for ecological input into planning and policy processes, including internal ecological reporting, independent review of statutory assessments (EIA, SEA, AA), and promote the use of stand-alone Ecological Impact Assessments (EcIAs), where appropriate.	The amendment has changed the number reference of the Draft Plan Action. There will be no impact or subsequent environmental effects from this amendment. The amendment will not result in likely significant effects on any European site.
12.	Ensure WCC has adequate in-house ecological expertise to implement this and future biodiversity plans by establishing an ecology team and a dedicated parks department, in line with evolving national legislation and policy obligations.	~~12.~~ 13. Ensure WCC has adequate in-house ecological expertise to implement this and future biodiversity plans by establishing an ecology team and a dedicated parks department, in line with evolving national legislation and policy obligations.	The amendment has changed the number reference of the Draft Plan Action. There will be no impact or subsequent environmental effects from this amendment. The amendment will not result in likely significant effects on any European site.
13.	Ensure sufficient resources are available within WCC to meet biodiversity needs by securing public funding, developing new funding models, and leveraging grants and private sector partnerships, including for large-scale and community-led restoration projects.	~~13.~~ 14. Ensure sufficient resources are available within WCC to meet biodiversity needs by securing public funding, developing new funding models, and leveraging grants and private sector partnerships, including for large-scale and community-led restoration projects.	The amendment has changed the number reference of the Draft Plan Action. There will be no impact or subsequent environmental effects from this amendment. The amendment will not result in likely significant effects on any European site.

Draft Plan Action Code	Draft Plan Action	Summary of Amendment	Potential Sources of Impact
14.	Develop a Biodiversity Ambassadors programme to raise public awareness of the ecological value and sensitivity of amenity areas.	~~14.~~ 15. Develop a Biodiversity Ambassadors programme to raise public awareness of the ecological value and sensitivity of amenity areas.	The amendment has changed the number reference of the Draft Plan Action. There will be no impact or subsequent environmental effects from this amendment. The amendment will not result in likely significant effects on any European site.
15.	Roll out a county-wide biodiversity citizen science monitoring and training programme.	~~15.~~ 16. Roll out a county-wide biodiversity citizen science monitoring and training programme.	The amendment has changed the number reference of the Draft Plan Action. There will be no impact or subsequent environmental effects from this amendment. The amendment will not result in likely significant effects on any European site.
16.	Provide training, guidance, and capacity-building support to community groups to enhance biodiversity at the local level and facilitate the formation of new biodiversity groups in response to interest.	~~16.~~ 17. Provide training, guidance, and capacity-building support to community groups to enhance biodiversity at the local level and facilitate the formation of new biodiversity groups in response to interest.	The amendment has changed the number reference of the Draft Plan Action. There will be no impact or subsequent environmental effects from this amendment. The amendment will not result in likely significant effects on any European site.
17.	Support interested community groups in tree and hedgerow seed collection initiatives, and in the development of a network of tree and hedgerow nurseries.	~~17.~~ 18. Support interested community groups in tree and hedgerow seed collection initiatives, and in the development of a network of tree and hedgerow nurseries.	The amendment has changed the number reference of the Draft Plan Action. There will be no impact or subsequent environmental effects from this amendment. The amendment will not result in likely significant effects on any European site.

Draft Plan Action Code	Draft Plan Action	Summary of Amendment	Potential Sources of Impact
18.	Deliver public engagement campaigns, events, and workshops that inspire people to reconnect with nature, take positive action for biodiversity, and act as responsible stewards of Wicklow's natural heritage.	~~18.~~ 19. Deliver public engagement campaigns, events, and workshops that inspire people to reconnect with nature, take positive action for biodiversity, and act as responsible stewards of Wicklow's natural heritage.	The amendment has changed the number reference of the Draft Plan Action. There will be no impact or subsequent environmental effects from this amendment. The amendment will not result in likely significant effects on any European site.
19.	Deliver biodiversity communications, including updates, public guidance, and accessible information, and explore new formats to raise awareness and deepen public engagement.	~~19.~~ 20. Deliver biodiversity communications, including updates, public guidance, and accessible information, and explore new formats to raise awareness and deepen public engagement.	The amendment has changed the number reference of the Draft Plan Action. There will be no impact or subsequent environmental effects from this amendment. The amendment will not result in likely significant effects on any European site.
20.	Support creative projects that explore the relationship between people and nature, such as nature-inspired murals, performances, or other artistic expressions.	~~20.~~ 21. Support creative projects that explore the relationship between people and nature, such as nature-inspired murals, performances, or other artistic expressions.	The amendment has changed the number reference of the Draft Plan Action. There will be no impact or subsequent environmental effects from this amendment. The amendment will not result in likely significant effects on any European site.
21.	Develop practical ways to support information sharing, networking and collaboration among individuals and community groups involved in biodiversity projects and activities in Wicklow.	~~21.~~ 22. Develop practical ways to support information sharing, networking and collaboration among individuals and community groups involved in biodiversity projects and activities in Wicklow.	The amendment has changed the number reference of the Draft Plan Action. There will be no impact or subsequent environmental effects from this amendment. The amendment will not result in likely significant effects on any European site.

Draft Plan Action Code	Draft Plan Action	Summary of Amendment	Potential Sources of Impact
22.	Support schools in promoting biodiversity awareness and action through participation in existing programmes and by supporting practical learning and locally relevant projects.	~~22.~~ 23. Support schools in promoting biodiversity awareness and action through participation in existing programmes and by supporting practical learning and locally relevant projects.	The amendment has changed the number reference of the Draft Plan Action. There will be no impact or subsequent environmental effects from this amendment. The amendment will not result in likely significant effects on any European site.
23.	In collaboration with relevant agencies, provide training and demonstration site visits for farmers and landowners interested in biodiversity enhancement and habitat restoration.	24. Support farmers and landowners in implementing biodiversity enhancement and habitat restoration measures on private land through technical guidance and training, and by facilitating access to funding opportunities.	The amendment has subsumed Draft Plan Actions 23 and 24 into one Action, which will support interested farmers and landowners in implementing biodiversity enhancement and habitat restoration measures on private landholdings by providing technical guidance and training, and by facilitating access to available funding. The nature of the amendment itself is minor as it restructures the Draft Plan Actions, and will not change the intention or the scope of the Draft Plan Actions. There will be no additional or new sources of impacts that can result in adverse effects on the receiving environment. The amendment will not result in likely significant effects on any European site.
24.	Support farmers and landowners to implement biodiversity enhancement and landscape resilience measures on private land by offering technical guidance and access to funding opportunities.		
32.	Explore innovative nature-based solutions to build county-wide resilience.	32. Explore innovative nature-based solutions to address biodiversity loss and build county-wide resilience.	The amendment introduces a clause that will explore nature-based solutions to address biodiversity loss and consequently build resilience to threats and pressures endangering biodiversity within the Plan Area.

Draft Plan Action Code	Draft Plan Action	Summary of Amendment	Potential Sources of Impact
			The amendment does not change the intention or the scope of the original action, and will achieve the same outcomes as the Draft Plan Action (i.e. underpin and support biodiversity improvements in the Plan Area). The amendment will not introduce a source of negative impact that can result in adverse effects on the receiving environment. The amendment will not result in likely significant effects on any European site.

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